

MEDIA RELEASE

Court action to halt Barangaroo development

Court action has been launched in the NSW Land and Environment Court to stop the controversial Barangaroo development in Sydney's CBD from proceeding in its present form.

The action, launched by the recently formed alliance, Australians for Sustainable Development Inc. (ASD), will challenge two government approvals to excavate and relocate contaminated material at Barangaroo.

ASD Vice-President and Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor, Marcelle Hoff, said the court action seeks to declare invalid the government's approval for the developer Lend Lease to commence excavation at the Barangaroo site. They also want to stop works on the site until the contamination issues have been resolved.

"Part of the Barangaroo site and surrounding areas contain poisonous toxins. Toxins such as cyanide came from the old gas works that once operated in that area. I'm led to believe that some of those toxins have leached into the basement of The Bond, Lend Lease's flagship building," Councillor Hoff said.

"The excavation works pose a serious risk of toxic waste flowing into the harbour. If the contamination is not properly removed prior to excavation, both human health and sea life can be put at risk.

"For this reason, we totally oppose the approval to excavate this toxic area for a huge 900-space car park. Without logic or planning, the government has granted approval to Lend Lease to move the contaminated fill from the car park, to the proposed headland public park.

"It's totally unacceptable that there is no legally binding condition of approval for Lend Lease to remediate this site. The NSW people must have a commitment from Lend Lease that they will clean up this publically owned land.

Member groups of the ASD alliance argue that the Minister for Planning, when granting the approvals, was misled into believing that there would be a valid and enforceable remediation plan to clean up the contamination and contaminated fill. This should have been one of the conditions of approval for the site.

The matter will appear before the Land and Environment Court on Friday 3 December. At this time the ASD alliance will seek an expedited hearing of its claim.

ASD, an alliance of community groups and concerned citizens is leading the court action, including Clean Up Australia, the National Trust, Leichardt Council, the 5000-strong Barangaroo Action Group, Friends of Barangaroo and a number of community interest groups.

Media enquiries and interview requests: Anastasia Stomo (02) 9258-0131 or 0432 243 389