

MEDIA RELEASE

Barangaroo before the courts

Australian's for Sustainable Development (ASD) has commenced an action in the Land and Environment Court seeking orders declaring the Planning Minister's approval for Lend Lease to commence excavation and other works at Barangaroo as invalid and seeking an injunction to stop the works.

Mr Jack Munday President of ASD said "the NSW judicial system offers independence when government abandons all pretence of accountability. The community has no confidence in the post-competition planning process."

"ASD will argue that the Minister's indecent haste to secure a political legacy has put the harbour's health at risk.

Part of the Barangaroo site and surrounds contain poisonous toxins from the former gas works. Some of those toxins have already migrated into the basement Lend lease's headquarters and across part of the Barangaroo site towards the harbour.

"ASD claims 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, as a condition of the approval.

Lend Lease has received approval to use the excavated fill from the 900 bay car park in the public park proposed for the northern headland. ASD claims that Lend Lease has yet to provide a properly approved remediation plan to use the contaminated fill for the park.

"It has been argued that the immense headland is nothing but poorly disguised Land Lease landfill. ASD contends that remediation of toxic soil in a public recreation zone is not permissible under planning law, said Jack Munday.

"ASD will advocate that the Minister has failed to comply with his own state planning policies regulating contaminated land in an effort to fast-track Barangaroo."

The proceedings have been listed in the Court on Friday 3 December when the association will seek an expedited hearing of its claim. ASD has presented five points of claim for consideration by the court.

Groups affiliated with ASD include:

- Architects Concerned About Barangaroo
- Barangaroo Action Group
- Blackwattle Bay Residents Action Group
- Clean up Australia
- Friends of Barangaroo
- Leichhardt Municipal Council
- Millers Point, Dawes Point and the Rocks Residents Action Group
- The National Trust of Australia (NSW)

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