



# PREPARING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

## Port Kembla Copper

JULY 2021

**For almost a century, Port Kembla's copper smelter was part of the local skyline. Port Kembla Copper, the most recent operator of the site, has spent 18 years cleaning up the site and preparing for the Military Road site's future.**

Now, as Port Kembla Copper (PKC) prepares to exit the site, it is working with the community to understand the legacy of previous historic smelter operations.

Copper smelting occurred at the Military Road Port Kembla site for around 100 years, mainly by former long-term smelter operators. PKC purchased the site in 1997 and upgraded and operated the site for three years between 2000-2003. PKC's short period of operation took place under strict environmental controls. Similar controls were not applied during the historical ownership and operation of the site by former long-term smelter operators.

PKC is making the site suitable for future uses. As it is now almost finished with remediation work on the site, PKC is continuing to work with the community and regulators to understand the off-site legacy of the previous historic smelter operations.

### Off-site investigation

As part of the site closure and remediation, PKC commissioned expert environmental consulting firm Senversa to identify areas of Port Kembla which may have been affected by historical smelting operations.

Senversa conducted a detailed review of prior research then tested of more than 85 soil samples collected from public areas of Port Kembla. This testing identified some smelter-related metal contamination in soil (including lead) and established a zone for further investigation (see map on page 3).

After the results of initial testing were received, they were shared with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), NSW Health, Wollongong City Council (Council) and an independent expert Site Auditor. With oversight from these regulators, a plan for additional testing – including testing of private properties – was developed. This plan meets industry standards.

PKC now intends to conduct additional soil and indoor dust testing at some private properties in the investigation zone. The purpose of the additional testing is to assess whether smelter-related soil and dust contamination is also present on private land and in buildings and, if so, at what levels.

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

## How were testing sites chosen?

Senversa conducted an extensive review of previous research and relevant records, which identified areas of Port Kembla which could have been contaminated by smelter operations.

In February 2019, Senversa collected more than 85 soil samples in open space from the potentially affected areas, which were then tested. Based on the results of this research and testing which identified historical smelter-related metal contamination, Senversa identified an area requiring further testing.

Within that area, properties were chosen that represent a range of ages, types and locations. St Patrick's Primary School and Port Kembla Community Day Care have also been nominated for testing. The testing plan, including the selection of properties to test, has been reviewed by the EPA, NSW Health and Council and assessed by the independent expert site auditor.

## What will happen if my property is identified for testing?

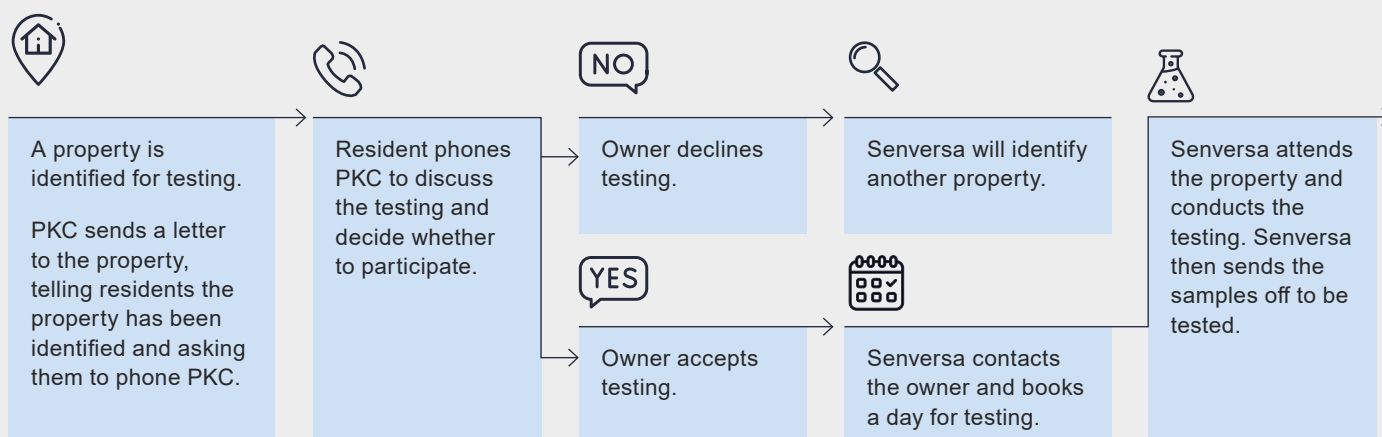
If your property has been identified for testing you will receive a letter from PKC.

Soil and dust testing of private properties for metal contamination can only occur with the written consent of the owner and, in the case of rented properties, the tenants also need to provide consent. If you do not wish to have your property tested, you are under no obligation to do so.

If you agree to have testing conducted at your property, a representative from Senversa will make contact to arrange a convenient time to conduct the testing and to ask preliminary questions. Testing will only be conducted when COVID-19 allows.

If any property owners or tenants do not wish to have their properties tested, other properties of a similar age, type and location may be identified for testing. This testing will follow the same process, which is outlined in the graphic opposite.

## WORKING WITH YOU





### What happens next?

After the testing of approximately 30 properties is complete, the results will be analysed. Based on that data, PKC will work with EPA, NSW Health, Council and the independent expert Site Auditor to make decisions about which properties meet the criteria for remediation, and whether further investigation is required. The results are expected to take between three and six months.

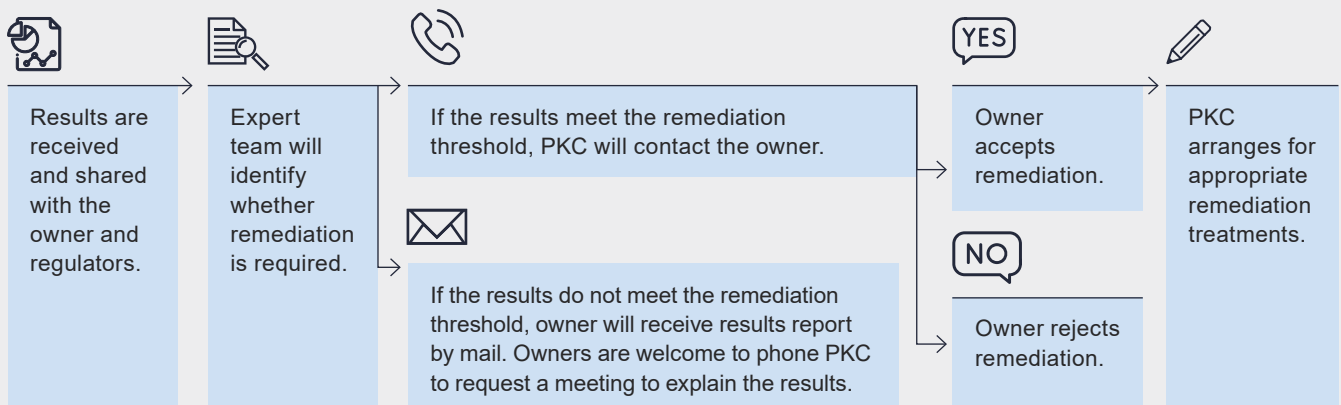
If your property has already been tested, PKC will contact you directly to discuss remediation options.

Based on the results, additional testing may take place at this point. If your property is within the investigation zone but has not been tested, you may be contacted at this stage. If testing finds no additional investigation is necessary, you will not be contacted by PKC.

### What happens if my property is outside the investigation zone?

The investigation zone was established based on the outcomes of testing of more than 85 soil samples taken in open space throughout Port Kembla, as well as an extensive review of previous research and relevant records.

Information reviewed and data collected by PKC to date indicates that historical smelter-related contaminated appears to be restricted to the investigation zone. This is will be confirmed by the supplementary investigations.



### What is remediation?

Remediation is the process used to address contamination and ensure a property is safe for ongoing use.

Remediation treatments can include a range of options such as deep cleaning, vacuuming of roof cavities, capping or removal of contaminated soil. Decisions about appropriate treatments are made for each property, in consultation with property owners, tenants, regulators and the independent expert Site Auditor.

### What are the risks to human health?

Investigations have identified the potential for risks to human health in localised areas of Port Kembla. PKC's supplementary investigations will determine whether actual risks may exist, and if they do, what remediation is required.

If you have more questions about the potential risk to human health, you can contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

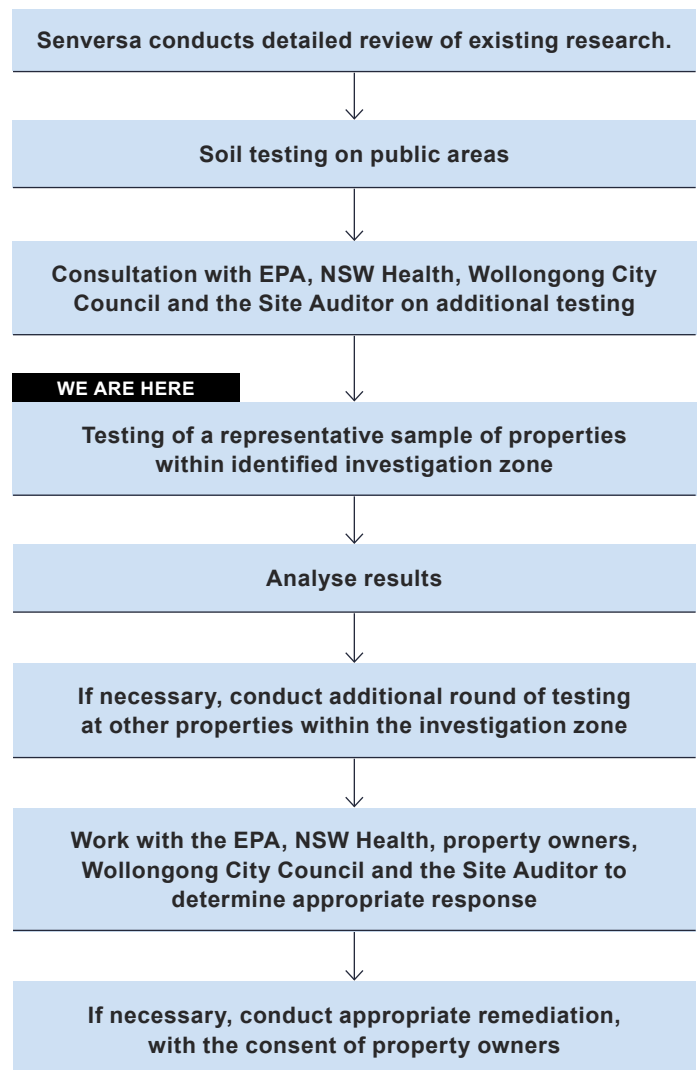
## ARE THERE TWO DIFFERENT TESTING PROGRAMS? WHY?

Over the next few months, PKC will be offering testing of individual identified properties. This testing will involve taking dust samples indoors and soil samples outdoors, in order to understand whether remediation of those properties is required.

At the same time, as part of its "Living with Lead" program, the EPA will also be offering members of the community soil testing. This testing will enable members of the community to better understand the risk of exposure to historic contamination - which may be associated with local industry but also other domestic sources including lead paint and lead light windows. To find out more about the EPA's program, visit [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au).

**For more information about PKC's sampling program, please visit:**  
[www.militaryroadsitefuture.com](http://www.militaryroadsitefuture.com)

**For information regarding lead safety, please visit:**  
[www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au)



Port Kembla Copper has commissioned Urbis to collect your feedback and provide further information about the testing and remediation process.

e: [info@militaryroadsitefuture.com](mailto:info@militaryroadsitefuture.com) t: 1800 921 299