

# Boral Berrima Cement

## Community Update

August 2015

**The Boral Berrima Cement Works is pleased to present this edition of Community Update for the information of our valued neighbours and wider community.**

## Fuelling our future – fuel from sources other than coal

Last September, we announced a proposal to introduce waste-derived fuels (WDFs) into production at Berrima. Since then, with your feedback, we've developed a planning application seeking approval to do so.

A WDF is one made from combustible materials recovered out of general waste streams. Across Australia and internationally, WDFs are used alongside 'traditional' fuels such as coal to produce the high temperatures needed to make 'clinker'. Clinker is ground down to make the cement you see being used every day.

There are environmental and economic benefits to using WDFs. Environmentally, the WDFs replace a portion of the coal normally used in manufacturing. They are also made from materials which would otherwise end up in landfill, space for which is becoming at a premium around the urbanised areas of NSW.

Economically, lower coal consumption means reduced operating costs at the Cement Works. The lowering of these costs is critical to the site's future given the challenge from our competitors who make use of imported clinker as part of their production – a process requiring a far smaller workforce than that at Berrima.

We're proposing to make use of two WDFs as part of production activities – wood waste-derived fuel (WWDF), and refuse-derived fuel (RDF). The site already holds an approval to

use rubber tyre 'chips' but has no current plans to use these.

It's important to understand the WDFs cannot be simply made from any material found in waste. They are carefully processed to specification, not only so that environmental obligations are met – fuels which don't meet specification can detrimentally affect the quality of clinker, and therefore the cement product.

In order to be allowed to use WDFs, the approval to which the Cement Works is operated needs to be modified. Firstly, the two new proposed fuels need to be added to the approval. Secondly, minor variations need to be made to the site's air emission limits so that they align to the NSW Government's Energy-from-Waste Policy, introduced in March last year.

The modification application is now on exhibition for public comment until **7 September**. You can view the documentation by visiting our website at [www.boral.com.au/berrimacement](http://www.boral.com.au/berrimacement) and following the 'Fuelling the Future' link through to the NSW Department of Planning's page.

You can also find the information about the initiative which we have been sharing over the last 12 months. Included are presentations, media releases and 'frequently asked questions' we have developed in response to the community feedback we have received.



### Included in our modification proposal:

- Approval to use up to **100 000 tonnes per annum** of solid WDFs
- Construction of **storage and kiln feeding systems**
- Changes to **air emission limits to align to NSW Government policy**

Like to know more? Call us on 02 4860 2222 or 02 9033 5215.

Or visit [www.boral.com.au/berrimacement](http://www.boral.com.au/berrimacement).

## Colliery closure progressing

We're continuing to develop our plans for the permanent closure of the Boral Berrima (Medway) Colliery following our announcement made in July 2014.

The Colliery and coal mine were operated between 1924 and 2013. It was the sole source of energy fuel for the Berrima Cement Works during those decades and employed around 40 people at the time production ended.

A combination of ongoing uncertainty about the Colliery's planning approval and increasing operating costs forced us to convert the site to 'care and maintenance' in October 2013.

Since then, activities at the Colliery have related to maintaining the site's infrastructure, meeting environmental obligations, and preparing the site for permanent closure.

Coal stockpiles at the Loch Catherine site have also been gradually reduced, with only a small amount remaining at the time of writing.

In the background, we've been working our way through the many requirements for permanent closure with several Government agencies.

A draft plan was presented to these agencies in February which led to a technical assessment of three different options:



- the full sealing of the mine (access and water outflows);
- partial sealing; and
- sealing all access points, but allowing natural groundwater inflows to flood the underground workings. Outflows to the Wingecarribee River would be retained.

The assessment was completed during July with the third option identified as the most technically and environmentally suitable.

Later this month, we'll reconvene with the various Government agencies to share the outcomes of the assessment and our proposed final closure plans for the site.

It is our intention to share these plans with the wider community as early as September in order to gather feedback on the process we propose to follow.

Approval of the closure plan will then trigger a sequence of activities which will involve the sealing of the mine's accesses, the demolition and removal of all buildings at the Colliery, and then the rehabilitation of Loch Catherine.

### Your **safety** is important!

*Locals are reminded that although operations have ceased at the Colliery, it remains a **live mine site** and **private property**.*

*Anyone entering without permission is **trespassing** and will be **referred to the NSW Police**. Security measures are in place at the site.*

## Did you know?

The Berrima Cement Works makes an important contribution not only to the Southern Highlands, but to the growth and development of NSW as a whole.

- **60 percent** of all cement sold in NSW is made at Berrima.
- The Cement Works contributes **more than \$50 million** to the regional economy yearly.
- There are **130 local people** working at the Cement Works.
- Clinker has been made at the Cement Works for **more than 85 years**.
- Berrima Cement can be found in the **Sydney Opera House**, **Federal Parliament House**, the **Anzac** and **Seacliff Bridges**, and the **Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme** to name but a few.

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