



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Bills - Second Reading Debate

21 August 2019

Lake Macquarie Smelter Site
(Perpetual Care of Land) Bill 2019

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) (10:25pm):

I support the Lake Macquarie Smelter Site (Perpetual Care of Land) Bill 2019. As former shadow Minister for the Hunter and having had a large section of this land formerly part of the Wallsend electorate I welcome the bill to secure the long-term environmental management of the containment cell at the former Pasmenco site. I will not speak to the bill for very long. However, I will say that it has a long history for me, having been brought up on Salty Creek on the outer reaches of Cockle Creek at Edgeworth. It is a place where my dad used to swim before it was contaminated. My uncle was an electrician at Sulphide Corporation and many people I grew up with at West Wallsend High School worked at Sulphide, so we know it very well. The bill will mitigate the risk to the environment and the community from the residual contamination resulting from more than 100 years of the smelter's operation. It is a win for residents right across the north-west region of Lake Macquarie, including Wallsend. Reports in the media today point towards 2,600 jobs being created—which we welcome—and \$1.8 billion dollars in economic benefit to the region, which is also terrific.

Of course, there is one more step that the Government needs to take into consideration—that is, the remediation of residential properties affected by decades of pollution. It is something we need to consider for the future. I agree

with the member for Lake Macquarie that there is an awful lot of lead in the area. We need to remember that the cost of cleaning up pollution from Pasmaico in the surrounding suburbs has been placed on the home owners. The Government needs to look at this very carefully. I also like what the member said about looking forward to the Munibung link to Cardiff Industrial Estate. It has been a long time coming and very important for all of the workers in the area. I note that the member for Dubbo spoke extensively about the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation and its role in this site, which is wonderful.

When talking about Pasmaico and the Sulphide site, I hope that the Hunter development corporation will ensure that it has a great involvement in the expediting of the Glendale transport interchange, which is right in this area. It will be great for residents to be able to access it when they move into their homes in the Boolaroo area. I look forward to the passage of the bill. I congratulate the Government and the member for Lake Macquarie. I know from working with him when he was both mayor and member that he has worked really hard in this area—not only for Munibung Hill but for Pasmaico, for the community and for Glendale. It is a success and win for the member in the best way and I congratulate him.