

Remediated land monitoring – Rhodes Peninsula

Information for community and residents on the former Union Carbide and Lednez (UCAL) site at Rhodes Peninsula

Key points

- The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is working with the City of Canada Bay Council and private landowners on the former Union Carbide and Lednez (UCAL) site at Rhodes Peninsula to check that ongoing management plans are in place and being carried out.
- The historical chemical industrial contamination at the site was remediated to a suitable standard for redevelopment in 2011.
- There is currently no evidence that the contamination is a risk to residents or the community.

What is the contamination?

A number of chemical factories operated on the site from the 1920s to the 1980s, manufacturing a range of chemicals that included pesticides, herbicides, wood preservers and chemicals used to make plastics. This led to the contamination of the land.

The contaminated soils were treated and some residual contamination buried at depth and capped in cells or 'burrow pits' onsite. This made the site appropriate for redevelopment from 2011.

Why does monitoring need to be ongoing?

There are restrictions on how the land can be used, and Environmental Management Plans are in place for properties across the UCAL site. The plans provide for the ongoing safe use of the land by ensuring that the community does not come into contact with the buried contaminated soil. They require ongoing monitoring.

In 2021 the EPA met with property managers and site-owner representatives, to check that this long-term management strategy is being implemented effectively and is raising community awareness where necessary.

How could this affect me?

There is currently no evidence that the contamination presents an unacceptable risk to residents or the community. Residents and businesses at Rhodes Peninsula use the town water supply and this remains safe to use.

The work conducted by the EPA is to ensure that property owners are aware of the Environmental Management Plan for their property and that the buried residual contamination continues to remain undisturbed.

Can I come into contact with the contamination?

No. You will not be exposed to the residual contamination by living at or visiting the Rhodes Peninsula. The area was remediated and is managed in order to ensure the community can use it safely.

It is recommended that residents use raised garden beds with imported clean soil if growing home produce.

Which area does the UCAL site cover?

The former UCAL site is generally bound by:

- Darling Avenue in the north
- Shoreline Drive (between Darling Avenue and Nina Gray Avenue), Nina Gray Avenue (between Shoreline Drive and Walker Street) and Walker Street (between Nina Gray Avenue and Gauthorpe Street) in the east
- Gauthorpe Street (between Walker Street and Shoreline Drive) and part of Shoreline Drive in the south
- the Homebush Bay shoreline to Darling Avenue in the west.



What are the next steps?

Groundwater monitoring is also necessary to provide long-term confidence that the remediation systems are operating and performing as designed and to confirm there are no impacts on the surrounding environment.

To achieve this, the City of Canada Bay Council will be undertaking a groundwater monitoring program across the site. This will include bore installation works, followed by a sampling and monitoring program throughout 2022.

Find out more

If you would like to get an update about this matter, you can contact the EPA by:

- phoning the Environment Line on 131 555
- emailing info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Photo

Rhodes Peninsula. Photo: Ben Williams Photography/Canada Bay Council.

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