

# Letter To The Editor



The Editor,  
Barraba Gazette.  
Dear Sir,

I write to correct a recent misunderstanding regarding community consultation surrounding the demolition of a building on the Woodsreef site.

For a number of years the Division of Resources & Energy (DRE) within NSW Trade & Investment, has worked closely with the local community over plans for the remediation of the derelict site to make it safe.

The welfare of the community, the welfare of workers involved in the process and the protection of the environment is paramount to DRE and at all times plans have been made public.

In addition DRE officers have regularly engaged with community representatives, local authorities and others to ensure plans for the area are well understood.

Suggestions that there was no consultation regarding the controlled demolition by induced collapse of the Old Mill building deserve to be corrected.

On 20 October 2014 a multi-agency Taskforce and contractors undertaking the demolition works met with community representatives.

The Taskforce include representatives from Ministry of Health, Environment Protection Authority, WorkCover NSW, Hunter New Eng-

land Health, Crown Lands and Tamworth Regional Council.

At this meeting, Delta's Director of Operations Jason Simcocks advised that Delta was currently in discussion with WorkCover NSW about controlled demolition by induced collapse. The presentation covered dust suppression, air quality monitoring and the demolition of the Mill Building and included topics such as controlled demolition, shear cutting of steel and use of cutting charges.

Recently, during demolition processes water sprinklers have been used to reduce the risk of asbestos dust travelling in any direction and air monitors placed around the site and in the town of Barraba have subsequently recorded no traces of asbestos dust.

Rubble from the site, including asbestos sheeting, friable asbestos and demolition rubble is being buried in an EPA approved engineered containment cell on the property. We are taking all possible precautions to ensure the public's safety. Uncovered material being transported in trucks from the site is steel that is being taken to Newcastle for recycling. There is no risk to the public from these movements as prior to its removal the steel was decontaminated, then inspected and cleared by a Licensed Asbestos As-

essor.

Work is currently ahead of schedule and may finish as early as June 2015.

DRE will continue to remain proactively engaged with the community and the Woodsreef Community Advisory Group. In addition, should any member of the public have concerns or questions, they are encouraged to contact our Community Liaison team on 0418 142 313 or email:

andrew.ellis@trade.nsw.gov.au.

Kylie Hargreaves  
Deputy Secretary  
Resources & Energy



The site of the old Mill at Woodsreef Asbestos Mine.