

8 February 2017

Mr Les Luksza
RPL Consulting
via Email

Our Reference: 0307122L07_FINAL.DOCX

Dear Les,

**RE: ONGOING SITE AUDIT: GINNINDERRA RESEARCH FIELD
STATION**



1. INTRODUCTION

RPL Consulting, on behalf of the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), has engaged Mr Peter Lavelle, a New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) Accredited Site Auditor (Accreditation No. 1201) employed by Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) to independently review site assessment works completed in relation to potential contamination issues for the proposed redevelopment of the Ginninderra Research Field Station, located on the Barton Highway, Ginninderra, ACT (the 'Site'). It is noted that whilst the Site does not currently fall under ACT regulatory jurisdiction, it is located within the ACT and under Section 75 of the Environment Protection Act 1997 (ACT), Site Auditors accredited by the NSW EPA (and other states with equivalent schemes) are recognised as suitable for the purposes of undertaking environmental audits of contaminated land within the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

2. NATURE AND SCOPE OF AUDITORS REVIEW

As outlined in ACT EPA (2009) *Contaminated Site Environment Protection Policy*:

"A site audit of contaminated land is an independent review of an assessment or remediation by an accredited contaminated land auditor.

An audit can be conducted for the purpose of determining any one or more of the following matters:

- *the nature and extent of any contamination of the land;*
- *the nature and extent of the assessment or remediation;*

- *what assessment or remediation remains necessary before the land is suitable for any specified use or range of uses; and*
- *the comprehensiveness of a remedial action plan for contaminated land.*

The final outcome of this engagement is to assess the suitability of the property for rezoning, including use as both public open space and residential land.

The Auditor was first engaged on 16 June 2015 and to date, the scope of the Auditor's involvement in the project has included:

- review of all available environmental site assessments undertaken at the site (dating back to February 2014);
- site inspection and observation of the consultants on-site investigation works;
- provision of detailed commentary and input on the sampling analysis and quality plans (SAQPs) prepared by the consultant (CH2MHill) to guide the completion of both the "Targeted Environmental Site Assessment" (Targeted ESA) and "Site Wide Environmental Investigation" (SWEI) works;
- provision of detailed commentary and input on the reports prepared detailing both the Targeted ESA and the SWEI; and active participation in various workshops discussing development opportunities and constraints with CSIRO and the broader project team.

3. OUTCOME OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN TO DATE

The CH2MHill (December 2016) *Site Wide Environmental Investigation - Ginninderra Research Station, ACT* concluded that *"Overall, the Site has been found to be largely free of significant contamination of soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment. Field observations and reported chemical concentrations indicate that approximately 700.29 Ha of the Site (99.8%) is suitable for the proposed residential development."*

Given the completion of the audit scope described herein, the assessment works undertaken by CH2MHill as part of both the Targeted ESA and the SWEI have been completed in general accordance with relevant guidance, regulations and the Auditors requirements. Further to this, the final Targeted ESA and SWEI reports prepared by CH2MHill have given due consideration to the Auditors input and comments.

4. CLOSING REMARKS

Should you have any queries regarding the assessment works undertaken and / or the Site Audit process, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Lavelle
NSW EPA Accredited Site Auditor
(Accreditation No. 1201)
Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd