



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 25 March 2003**

### **Rhodes Inquiry Heads To Newcastle**

The Commission of Inquiry into the remediation of the former Allied Feeds site at Rhodes Peninsula in Sydney will head north to Newcastle today.

The purpose of the visit by the Deputy Chairperson of the Commissioners of Inquiry for Environment and Planning, Kevin Cleland, will be to inspect the plant operated by Innova Soil Technology on the former BHP site at Mayfield.

The locally developed technology has been identified during the hearing as a model for the future remediation of contaminated sites. While treating soils by heating to separate contaminants is not new, the Innova solution uses innovative methods to recover energy, reducing costs and simultaneously eliminating the potential for gas pollution.

Rhodes Peninsula resident activist Paul Hanly will also visit the Innova plant, along with representatives of Greenpeace and State Government departments.

Managing Director of Innova Soil Technology, Dr John Lucas, was called to give evidence to the inquiry, following a written submission where he alleged that Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd were guilty of plagiarizing his published work without acknowledgement.

Worse still, Dr Lucas said, was that the company had made changes to the work which were deliberately misleading, in an EIS prepared for the Rhodes Peninsula site.

*"What is of far more serious concern to me... is the subtle and somewhat covert alterations that Earth Tech have made to the scientific findings and conclusions copied from our paper. These changes are in fact extremely misleading in terms of their proposal for Remediation of the Former Allied Feeds sites, Rhodes Peninsula."*

The changes made by Earth Tech to the published paper centre on the potential for dioxin re-formation during the soil remediation process. Innova's patented technology involves direct-heating, fast-quenched thermal desorption, which eliminates the risk for dioxins to reform. The critical component of the Innova solution is the fast-quench cooling method, where gases are cooled from 750°C to less than 200°C in just 30-milliseconds.

Earth Tech claimed incorrectly that the proposed method for Rhodes Peninsula, where the soil is slowly cooled from 600°C to 200°C, could provide the same guarantee against dioxin formation. Dr Lucas published work states that while no dioxin formation will be detected in stack emission tests,

*"dioxin will form above the stack as the gases cool slowly through the 600#C to 200#C temperature window".*

Commissioner Cleland was appointed by Dr Andrew Refshauge, Deputy Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Housing, to investigate the remediation methods proposed by Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd.

The clean-up of the site is being undertaken on behalf of construction giant Meriton, who propose to create a new urban centre on the shores on the Parramatta River housing 7,300 people.

**For further information at any time please contact  
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