



## Video spotlights contamination at Barangaroo

Sydney, 23 September 2010: Barangaroo Action Group and Friends of Barangaroo today released a video highlighting the contamination at Barangaroo.

Presented by distinguished environmental activist Jack Munday, the video 'The truth about pollution at Barangaroo' can be accessed at <http://www.barangarooaction.com.au/page/media.html>

The contamination originates from the old gas works' tar pit still located under Hickson Road and Barangaroo. The toxins it contains include benzene, arsenic, cyanide and cancer producing hydrocarbons. Under the present development plans, Lend Lease and the NSW Government plan to leave it untreated and instead focus on protecting new buildings from groundwater pollution.

However, the Bond Building in Hickson Road directly opposite the Barangaroo site was built by Lend Lease and has since been contaminated by polluted groundwater. Initially promoted as Sydney's greenest building, it is part of a site that was first gazetted as contaminated over three years ago.

Expert opinion is that if the plan to excavate at Barangaroo to build a car park and then seal the area with a waterproof wall is carried out, cracking in the surrounding sandstone and the wall will redirect groundwater through the most polluted areas into the harbour and buildings on Hickson Road. Legal action is anticipated should the State Government approve the excavation.

Ian Campbell, president of Barangaroo Action Group said, "The only responsible course of action is to fix the source of the pollution. If it remains, there will be significant risk that excavation spreads contamination and construction dust will distribute carcinogens through the neighbourhood."

Clause 7 of the Major Development SEPP of 2005 requires the NSW minister of planning to withhold approval if there is no assurance remediation will be carried out.

"The State Government's desperation to consummate its secret deal before the next election is being allowed to take priority over proper remediation of dangerous contaminants," Ian Campbell said.

For further information please contact:

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<http://www.barangarooaction.com.au/>

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