

OCTOBER 2026 • EDITION 02

# Munmorah Community Newsletter

Progress, rehabilitation and community updates from the Munmorah site.



## Message from the CEO

Welcome to the second edition of the Munmorah Community Newsletter. Thank you for reading our first edition, and for your interest in what's happening at Munmorah. Hearing from you helps us share the things that matter most to the community.

There's been plenty of progress on site. Our Water Treatment Plant has passed its Proof of Performance testing, and the results are now with the EPA for review. Work on the new bridge is well underway and expected to finish in early 2027. The clean-up of the former power station site has also taken its next step, with three contractors now investigating the site as part of Early Contractor Involvement.

We're also sharing news about the NSW Government's draft plan to protect bushland on the Central Coast, which proposes keeping a significant portion of our land for biodiversity conservation. You'll also meet Chelsea Warwick from our finance team, and we say farewell to John Pola, our Environmental and Dam Safety Manager, who retires in November after ten years with GPM.

As always, we're committed to keeping you informed as the work continues. If you have questions or feedback, call us on 02 4390 8994 or email [info@gpmco.com.au](mailto:info@gpmco.com.au).



### Water Treatment Plant passes key testing

Our Water Treatment Plant at Munmorah has successfully completed its Proof of Performance testing. This is the last testing stage before a plant moves into regular use, where we prove it can clean water to the required standard.

During testing, the plant treated water from the site and sent it back into the site's water system, so nothing was released off site. It ran at up to 8.4 litres per second and successfully treated approximately 1 megalitre, which is one million litres. That's around 40% of an Olympic swimming pool.

The EPA's approval for this stage only referred to an initial test of 60,000 litres. We chose to test more than 16 times that amount so we could be confident the plant performs well day after day, and at its full flow capacity.

This is an important milestone as we work towards managing and releasing treated water from the site in the future, supporting the remediation of the area identified as contaminated and helping to protect local waterways and neighbouring communities.

The results from the Proof of Performance testing have been submitted to the EPA for review.



### Bridge works progressing well

Construction of the new bridge is well underway and is expected to be finished in early 2027. The new bridge, located near the existing Screens Bridge on the Hammond Canal, will replace the existing bridge, which is no longer operational due to its condition. The new bridge will support ongoing remediation works and provide access for other stakeholders working on site. Our contractor, The Civil Experts (TCE), is working closely with the GPM team to keep the project safe and on track.

We're also keeping a close eye on the environment as the work goes on, with no environmental issues identified so far. During construction, the team found some old pipes containing asbestos buried at the site. TCE is appropriately licensed to manage these safely, with GPM oversight and the right safety measures in place. Environmental controls are also in place throughout construction to manage any potential impacts on the surrounding area. A time-lapse camera has been running since day one, so we hope to share the full story of the bridge once it's complete.



## Protecting bushland on the Central Coast

The NSW Government has been developing a plan to guide how the Central Coast can keep growing while protecting its natural environment and local wildlife. GPM's land at Munmorah is included in the draft plan.

Over the past few years, GPM has opened its doors to ecologists who have surveyed the flora and fauna across the site. Based on this work, the draft plan proposes retaining a significant portion of the site for conservation, helping to protect habitat and biodiversity over the long term.

Some areas have also been specifically identified to create connections between Colongra Swamp Reserve and other green spaces around the site, supporting habitat connectivity across the broader area.

The next steps are to continue engagement with stakeholders regarding the Central Coast Strategic Conservation Plan, with final mapping expected to be completed by the Department in early 2027.



## Next step in the clean-up: Contractors get involved early

Planning for the clean-up of the former power station site has moved forward, with an approach called Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) now underway.

ECI brings experienced contractors into the process early so they can help develop the most practical approach for cleaning up the declared area. Following a competitive selection process, three contractors were selected from a number of applicants. They are now undertaking investigations on the ground, including assessing soil and site conditions, to help determine the most practical and effective way to carry out the clean-up.

The contractor who will carry out the clean-up is expected to be chosen and announced in 2027. The proactive engagement so far has given us a strong start to the process.



## Chelsea Warwick

### SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

Chelsea joined GPM in September 2023 as an Accountant. Due to movements within the Finance team, Chelsea was promoted to her current role of Senior Accountant in January 2025. Chelsea's role is pivotal in the preparation of management and financial accounting information, being a key support to both the Accountant and CFO in the small finance team.

What she loves most about working at GPM is the people she works with and the flexibility the company gives her.

Her advice for anyone thinking about a career in accounting is simple: accuracy and time management are key.

Outside of work, Chelsea likes to spend time with friends and family. She also has a soft spot for Top Gun. It's her favourite movie of all time, and she says a great soundtrack can make or break a film.

## Farewell John — A decade of service, and plenty of stories

After ten years with GPM, John Pola, our Environmental and Dam Safety Manager, is retiring this November. John is our last original staff member, commencing on formation of GPM in November 2016, long before GPM looked anything like it does today.

John came to GPM after a long career in and around the coal mines of the upper Hunter Valley. He was initially advised he'd be required for three years, but it soon became apparent that works would be required well beyond this timeframe. It has certainly been a long three years!

The early days were very different. When GPM was formed, there were just four people, and only the Site Manager worked full time. John's first visit to the Munmorah site was a real eye opener.

As GPM grew, so did John's role. When the company took over the Lidsdale site in September 2020, he stepped in as Site Manager at Munmorah while also looking after environment, dam safety and workplace health and safety across the

company. By early 2021 the team had grown to about eight people. Today there are 14.

Among his career highlights, John counts initiating the 2018 blast for Boilers 1 and 2 at Munmorah. What he's most proud of is developing and implementing GPM's Dam Safety Management System, which helps make sure the two dams GPM manages meet strict safety requirements.

John won't be here to see the clean-up of the former Munmorah power station site begin, but the studies, planning and safety systems he helped put in place will carry that work forward.

In retirement, he's planning a little travel, time with family, and a chance to relax and get fit. And his words of wisdom for someone just starting out? Typically direct: "Don't take advice. Do what you think is best."

Thank you for your significant contribution, John, and enjoy every minute.

## More Online

Visit our website for more information. It is loaded with great documents — including our Year in Review (coming soon), Voluntary Management Proposal updates, rehabilitation reports, news articles, and links to our environmental data portal.

[gpmco.com.au/munmorah](https://gpmco.com.au/munmorah)

