

**From:** john adbin [adbinoutdoor@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 July 2013 2:40:52 PM  
**To:** Lithgow City Council  
**Subject:** Re ref LEP2013

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to your letter 28th June and 3491 Glen Davis Road.

I assume you may be referring to the Oil Shale Mine and processing structures that are situated on our land at Glen Davis.

As you know these relics have been listed with Council and noted with the Heritage Council as being of significant interest and certainly as the land holder I respect the importance and the imperative to preserve these relics for future generations.

You may recall back in 2011 the Lithgow Council was fined \$110,000 by the EPA for removing threatened species on The Port Macquarie Road. This money was directed by the Government to be spent in the clean up of the Glen Davis Oil processing plant and adjacent areas. It may come as a surprise to you but I have been engaged with the Dept of Industry ( Derelict Mines) for the past three years trying to get some remedial works started. This has been the most frustrating and expensive time as the Dept will not engage with me on a workable clean up plan but rather they have engaged Engineering, Heritage and environment reports all of which have cost close to \$30,000 thus far. Just as recently as today I called the Department today and advised the plan is to send in a team of asbestos removal experts with special air monitors and they intend pick up some asbestos pieces that are in the old bathhouse and some pieces on our land. They won't say how much will be collected but they have made it very clear that the job will not be comprehensive or complete. " we will pick up some asbestos on our land until the money runs out' is the attitude of the Dept of Derelict mines.

We know that asbestos is 'top of mind' in safety issues but the real urgent problem facing the condition of the Glen Davis works is

1. Crude oil dumps in drums, valley, drains and settling ponds all of which have the capacity to leach into the adjacent Capertee river
2. Unstable floors and Buildings. Much of the works was half demolished in 1952/3 leaving a lot of buildings unsupported and in a dangerous condition. For the uninformed adventurous types these unstable floors and roof lines could cause serious injury or death.
3. Vegetation on top of retorts. These retorts are a significant landmark and a very important heritage relic and there are some trees growing on the top of the retorts which are not accessible with equipment.
- 4 Exposed pits and settling ponds. These pits are often hidden by grasses and weeds particularly annual summer grasses which can catch people or machines unaware and be the cause of serious injury or death.
5. Steel trip Hazards. For the immediate processing plant and much of the surrounding country there remains hundreds of half buried pipes and sharp metal objects that could cause both minor and major injury
6. Boundary fence with the National Park. Whilst we are proud to have the Parks as neighbors they are part of a mix of concerns one of which is that a percentage of visitors to the park will ignore the many "no entry ' signs and trespass onto the old processing plant and whilst I often pick up rubbish and beer cans the real concern is the risk of injury and death.
7. Asbestos is in two forms. the friable asbestos material was used extensively to insulate the many kilometers of steam pipe throughout the works. This does present as a real health issue and should be picked up or buried. the other is the bonded 'fibro' or asbestos which is evident in many many places at Glen Davis and despite EPA concerns I have no evidence that unless disturbed it presents a health or safety issue. I judge the concern similar to the recent 'fibro telcom' pits as a bit of a beat up and an opportunity to lay down tools and stop work.

I did write to Council previously about the above matters and in particular the way in which your fine on Port Macquarie road was being handled. If you are serious about looking after your heritage assets I would urge you to revisit your earlier fine and ask for the monies to be returned to Council so you can take charge of any remedial works at Glen Davis. I am sure you

could not do any worse than the Dept of Derelict Mines.

If you would like to discuss any of the above matters I would be happy to meet with you at Glen Davis at your convenience.

It is for the above reasons that I urge caution in promoting Glen Davis until some of the above concerns can be addressed. At present we do conducted tours every saturday afternoon at 2.00pm and these visits are strictly controlled and and supervised.

Yours sincerley,

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Ps Copies of reports are available.

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