

## REPORT ON CANCER STUDY RELEASED

The Hunter Area Public Health Unit has released the results of a year long study into the incidence and mortality of cancer in the North Lake Macquarie area. The suburbs included in the study were Boolaroo, Speers Point, Argenton, Marmong Point and some parts of Teralba.

The Public Health Unit looked at how many people were diagnosed with cancer and how many died during the period 1972 to 1991.

### The main findings were:

- males have an increased incidence and mortality of lung/head and neck and prostate cancer in the area
- males nearer the smelter were more at risk of being affected by lung cancer than those living in areas farther from the smelter
- there were more lung cancers in men in the last five years of the study
- the incidence of cancer in women showed an opposite trend, with, on average, between two and three fewer women than average being diagnosed with cancer each year, and less than one extra death occurring from stomach cancer.

### What does it mean?

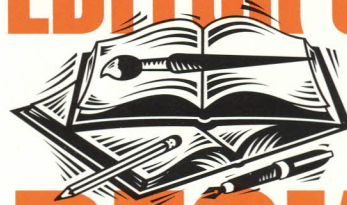
At present, health authorities do not know why the extra cancers in men occurred. They may be linked to smoking or lifestyle and/or occupational factors.

A leaflet distributed by the Public Health Unit to the community stated 'Because women did not get the same extra cancers as men, it is unlikely that pollution in the general environment was an important factor.'

Pasminco Metals - Sulphide has supported a recommendation by the Public Health Unit that further work be carried out to assess other factors which may have influenced the results.

A comprehensive health risk analysis will also be undertaken by Californian based consultancy ENVIRON to assess the impact on community health from Sulphide's current operation. The study is due for completion in November 1997.

# EDITOR'S DESK



The term "we live in a changing society" is somewhat of a cliché these days but the ingredients of those words certainly ring true. We do live in a changing society and we have to recognise that change is part and parcel of today.

Just as society is changing, so is industry around the world. There are some interesting figures which show that almost half the organisations that were Fortune 500 companies between 1979 and 1989 are no longer with us today because they weren't adaptive enough. More than two thirds of the "excellent companies" highlighted in the 1982 publication "In Search of Excellence" have faded from their pedestal.

What the figures - and society - show is that our environment does not stay the same long enough for sustained excellence unless we change with it. It's a changing world and we have to have the foresight to maintain sustainability and therefore future prosperity.

I'm a firm believer that "change" is good and that constant improvement leads to a better company that can handle the demands of our changing environment.

The Vision and Values workshops to which all employees are being invited reflects Pasminco's commitment to ensuring that we meet the challenge of change and that the "vision" of sustainability is linked with our values of performance, quality and respect.

By the time we all are taken through Vision and Values, and link that with the upgrade that is currently taking place on the plant, we will be equipped to focus on the next couple of years.

It's all about teamwork - and there is little doubt that we have the team to meet the challenge of change.



*Keith Powell, Senior Public Affairs Officer.*