

ESPERANCE CLEANUP AND RECOVERY PROJECT
FINAL MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

22 September 2011

Present:

Ms Alison Coates	Department of Transport (DOT) (Chair)
Ms Jenny Brodie-Hall	Community Representative
Mr Paul Clifton	Shire of Esperance
Ms Michelle Crisp	Locals for Esperance Development (LED)
Mr Matthew Devenish	Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project (ECRP)
Mr Lindsay Gillam	Department of Health (DOH)
Mr. Alex Leonard	Esperance Port Authority (EsPA)
Mr Peter McCafferty	ChemCentre
Mr Sergio Martinez	Main Roads WA
Mr Paul Riley	ECRP Cleaning Supervisor
Mr Peter Skitmore	Department Environment and Conservation (DEC)
Mr Grant Shipp (ECCI)	Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ms Christine Smith	Community Representative
Mr Wayne Winchester	Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project (ECRP)

Apologies:

Dr Charles Douglas	Department of Health (DOH)
Mr Michael Jackson	Department of Transport (DOT)
Mr Martin Matisons	Department of Health (DOH)
Ms Pam Norris	Locals for Esperance Development (LED)

1. Opening of Meeting and Review of Agenda

The Chair welcomed Members to the 14th meeting of the ECRP Steering Committee and mentioned that this is likely to be the last 'face to face' meeting to be convened in Esperance.

Members noted apologies from Charles Douglas, Michael Jackson, Martin Matisons and Pam Norris.

Members welcomed to the meeting Sergio Martinez, from Main Roads WA and Paul Riley, the ECRP Cleaning Supervisor. Mr Martinez had conducted a tour of the proposed Esperance Transport Corridor for Steering Committee Members earlier in the day. Mr Riley had given a demonstration of the difficulties experience by the ECRP team in removing lead residues from carpets.

The Chair thanked those Esperance based members who had waited for Perth based Members to arrive at a dinner held on the evening of 21 September.

The Chair acknowledged the leadership of Michael Jackson as Chair of the ECRP Steering Committee – he has been an honest, passionate and consistent advocate for the project ensuring all concerns, interests and views are taken into consideration and addressed appropriately.

The Chair acknowledged the work of Project Director, Wayne Winchester and the ECRP Team, for their methodical approach, high standards and customer service, underpinned by a no compromise attitude that the ECRP must be undertaken completely and thoroughly. The Chair recognised the sampling and cleaning teams that have acted professionally and developed skills for the local community.

The Chair acknowledged the contributions from members of government agencies who have focussed their efforts and the efforts of their agencies in undertaking the various tasks associated with the ECRP plus responding appropriately to the issues concerns and suggestions of the Esperance Community.

The Chair also acknowledged and thanked those community members who had given their time and energy to assist government and the ECRP Team in order to 'get it right' – to ensure that the Esperance cleanup was done correctly. Their vigilance and scrutiny has ensured that the process has remained on track, their willingness to be involved and to learn some often complex issues has made a world first in a cleanup and recovery of this type and magnitude.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the previous meeting, 16 June 2011, had been accepted as a true record out of session and loaded onto the OnCue Website accordingly.

3. Actions from the previous meeting – 16 June 2011

i. DEC Report on Lead and Nickel Levels in Esperance Vegetation

At the June 2011 meeting, Mr Skitmore agreed to notify members when the DEC Vegetation Sampling Report was available and provide a copy of the report to Members.

Current status:

Members noted:

- That the DEC Vegetation Sampling Report 2008-2010 had been loaded onto the DEC website. Members had been notified of this on 26 August 2011.
- Mr Skitmore provided a personal copy of the report to Michelle Crisp
- The link to the website is as follows:
<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/3484/1729/>
- This report will be used as a basis for future reports of the ongoing Esperance vegetation surveys.

- That the data from the 2011 Vegetation Survey was already written up and at the validation stage to make sure all the data has been entered and the graphs are correct. The 2011 Vegetation Report, when completed, will be sent out of session to ECRP Steering Committee members and placed on the DEC website.

Action: Peter Skitmore to provide a copy of the 2011 Report of the Study of Lead and Nickel Levels in Esperance Vegetation to Steering Committee Members and place the report on the DEC website.

ii. Progress report on the ECRP Sampling Program-disposal of contaminated soils

At the June 2011 meeting, Peter Skitmore agreed to provide written advice to the ECRP team and the Red Hill Landfill facility on the acceptability of batches of contaminated soils at a Class 3 landfill.

Current status:

Members noted:

- That this matter had been actioned.
- Wayne Winchester agreed to follow-up this matter to confirm that arrangements had been made for the disposal of contaminated soils.

Action: Wayne Winchester to follow through with the Red Hill Landfill facility on the acceptability of batches of contaminated soils at a Class 3 landfill facility.

iii. Report on sampling and analysis of Esperance grown fruits, vegetables and eggs

At the June 2011 meeting, it was agreed that the ECRP Project Team would prepare the report on sampling and analysis of Esperance grown fruits vegetables and eggs, and refer it to Steering Committee members out of session.

Current status:

Members noted:

- That the report of this survey was not complete at the time of the meeting.
- That all fruit and vegetables and eggs analysed in this survey had been well within specified limits except one sample of gooseberries.
- DOH had issued a media statement on the results of this survey.
- Further investigations were being made into the reason why the one sample of gooseberry had exceeded the maximum level for lead as specified in the Food Standards Code.
- That the ECRP Team will finalise the report of this survey in the near future.

Action: ECRP Team to finalise report on lead and nickel in fruits, vegetables and eggs produced in Esperance and refer to members out of session.

iv. Esperance Port Authority Environmental Emission Data-assessment of nickel emissions against annual guideline

At the June 2011 meeting, it was agreed to request the EsPA to load the assessment of nickel emissions against the annual guideline, on the EsPA website.

Current status: This matter is discussed under item 11.4.

v. Progress Report on Sampling of Homes and Other Premises - Railway Dam site

At the June 2011 meeting, it was agreed that the ECRP Project Team would arrange removal of contaminated sediments in the sump area of the Railway Dam site during the summer months when the dam site is dry.

Current status: This matter is discussed under item 6.

vi. Sentinel Monitoring Program

At the June 2011 meeting, it was agreed that the ECRP Project Team would recalculate the data obtained for the depositional dust gauges in the sentinel monitoring program and to express this data as mg/m²/month.

Current status: This matter is discussed under item 8.

vii. Installation by EsPA of two additional HiVol monitors in the Esperance community and application of the 'nickel method' to community HiVol monitoring

At the June 2011 meeting, it was agreed that advice should be sought from DOH whether the three HiVols intended to be located in the Esperance community, should be installed.

Current status: This matter is discussed under item 11.2.

viii. Esperance Transport Corridor – Lead and Nickel Management Strategy

At the June 2011 meeting it was agreed that the Lead and Nickel Management Strategy for the Esperance Transport Corridor would be circulated to Steering Committee members out of session.

Current status:

The lead and nickel management strategy was circulated to members on 3 August 2011. This matter is further discussed under item 11.5.

4. Summary of Current Status of the ECRP- Project Director's Report

Members noted:

- A report on this item by Wayne Winchester, Project Director.
- The cleanup of Esperance (the ECRP) is gradually coming to a conclusion. There is a high level of confidence that the project will be completed successfully.
- Consideration is now being given to a series of issues such as close-out reports, validation audits, disposal of assets and shutdown procedures.
- The ECRP has 'touched' many people in the Esperance community with up to 80 people being employed by the project at any one time and a total of about 200 people having been involved in the Project. The ECRP team continues to work very well. Closure of the ECRP is an important issue for the Esperance community.
- The Government has provided an additional \$5.815 Million for the completion of the Project in this financial year. A further \$50k has been provided for the 2012/2013 financial year. This latter amount is mainly for the sentinel monitoring program. In making the announcement of the additional funds for the ECRP, the Minister for Transport stated that there would be an independent validation audit and report on the ECRP.
- At this stage the projected budget for the ECRP is 'on target'.
- Since the last meeting, Thad Hobbs, Manager of the ECRP Sampling program had left the ECRP and Esperance. His departure had required a restructure of ECRP project operations. Matt Devenish had taken up the role of overall Project Manager. In addition a Sampling Office, Administrative Manager had been appointed.
- The working relationship between the ECRP team and the ChemCentre continues to work well. The ChemCentre is providing high level technical and strategic sampling and data analysis support through Michael North and Hannah Burden.
- Occupational Health and Safety advice is currently being provided by IFAP.
- The detailed sampling of premises was almost completed. Most of the sampling work is now validation sampling, following the cleaning of premises. Some residual sampling was being carried out as a result of the gap analysis program.
- Efforts to contact those premise owners who had not previously responded to participate on the program (the Gap Analysis Program) had almost been completed. The gap of those premise owners who did not respond after the first round of letters, was about 20%. After sending out requests by registered mail to those persons who did not respond in the first round, it is estimated that between 10 to 15% of the total community within the area of interest are not responding, and therefore not wishing to be involved in the cleanup project.
- Roof surface, gutters and tank cleaning was 95% complete. There has been a mutual suspension of the contract for cleaning roof surfaces and gutters because there was not sufficient work for these contractors at the present time. This cleaning team is still available for further cleaning as required.

- Roof spaces and internal and external cleaning was about 75% complete. Roof space cleaning in commercial premises was a current operation. This has recently been conducted out of business hours to minimise disruption to businesses.
- About 500 rain water tanks have been cleaned under the ECRP. Some have been replaced. 340 tanks have been retested (after about 3 months allowing for sufficient rainfall) to ensure that no recontamination has occurred. About 20 of these tanks have shown lead (18) or nickel (20) concentrations above the Drinking Water Guidelines. Investigations have been carried out to determine the cause of this further contamination such as lead flashing. Isotopic testing had been used in these investigations to confirm the source(s) of lead.
- The client satisfaction for the project to date is approximately 90%.
- It is anticipated that cleaning program will be completed by the end of 2011. Administrative aspects and key staff of the ECRP are likely to require an extension of about six months after that time i.e. until about June 2012.
- The Director General of the Department of Transport has agreed to provide two of the ECRP Nitons to DEC and two to the ChemCentre, at the completion of the project. This is in recognition of the services provided to the ECRP by these Agencies.
- DOH has also requested one Niton. This request is being progressed by the Director, ECRP through respective Director Generals.
- It has also been agreed that the ECRP will provide a shipping container to the Shire of Esperance for use by the Esperance Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue.
- Some staff are being lost from the Project Team as the ECRP draws to completion.

5. Progress Report on Sampling of Homes and Other Premises

Members noted:

- A report on this item by Matthew Devenish, ECRP Program Manager.
- A series of maps of the Esperance townsite showing various test results of the ECRP sampling program. The maps are produced by the DOH on the basis of data provided by the ECRP team. The maps provide a valuable tool to understanding the distribution of the Magellan lead contamination and are not for distribution to the public.
- The map showing the results of isotopic testing. Approximately 1500 samples had been subjected to isotopic testing. This method is used to determine the source of lead. Testing of each sample costs about \$150 and about \$250k had been spent on isotopic testing under the ECRP. However the results of isotopic testing had saved probably four times that amount in cleaning. This particular map showed a significant reduction in the samples confirmed to be Magellan lead in the outer areas of the Esperance townsite [sections 9 and 10] especially those in Nulsen.
- It is difficult to determine the sources of lead when multiple sources of lead are present.

- Isotopic testing is just one of the data sets used by the ECRP team in order to determine the extent of the Magellan lead contamination ‘footprint’
- At this stage in the ECRP progress, there will be no need to continue with the same volume of isotopic testing.
- A series of maps showing lead and nickel sampling in premises. The map showing lead and nickel levels in roof spaces was a very useful archive in showing the distribution of Magellan lead (especially for those premises with tiled roofs).
- There is no evidence of lead recontamination occurring. However there does appear to be some nickel recontamination occurring. This is most likely due to the continued export of nickel sulphide through the port as the EsPA’s depositional dust gauges are detecting some nickel emissions..
- A suggestion by Peter Skitmore that separate maps for isotopic testing should be prepared for each type of sampling i.e separated maps for gutter samples, external samples etc.
- The enormous data set that has been generated from this project provides the opportunity for further research.
- Occupational Health and Safety remains a high priority. That there have been no elevated blood lead levels in workers involved in the cleanup project or in the laboratory workers. There have been some safety incidents during the cleanup operations such as (soft tissue injuries). A report on OH&S has been received from the consultant IFAP. The ECRP team is addressing the recommendations from this report.

Action: ECRP Team to request DOH to prepare separate maps for isotopic testing for each particular type of sampling carried out.

6. Remediation of the Railway Dam site

Members noted:

- There had been a presentation to Steering Committee members at the Railway Dam site during the morning immediately before the Steering Committee meeting.
- That there were two elements in the cleanup of this site:
 - i. The sump area of the actual dam
 - ii. The catchment area leading into the dam.
- The sump area would be cleaned during the summer months when the sump was dry.
- The catchment area of the site included a granite out crop and the small rivulets leading into the dam. There was vegetation on this site, some of which was classified as ‘Priority 1 vegetation’.
- It was proposed to carry out ‘spot’ cleaning of those pockets of soil where the lead levels were elevated and above the cleanup guidelines. It was not proposed to remove vegetation from the site.
- That in terms of the cleanup guideline to be applied to this site, that this was not a residential area and from a scientific viewpoint it would be appropriate to apply the health investigational level for lead in industrial

- sites i.e. 1500mg/kg. It was also most likely that any lead dust which would potentially have been remobilised by winds would have already been mobilised at this stage.
- That the cleanup guideline applied to the port area immediately after the lead stranded at the port was removed, was 300mg/kg i.e. the residential cleanup guideline.
 - The ECRP cleanup guideline applied to soils in the Esperance townsite was 300mg/kg and any decision to apply a different cleanup guideline to this site should be defensible especially in view of the independent validation audit.
 - That the cleanup of the site would begin in the near future because of the current availability of the PRC skilled workforce.
 - The ECRP Team would apply a decision tree approach using the 300mg/kg level as a guide for remediation of the site.
 - Lindsay Gillam offered to discuss the cleanup up guideline applicable to the Railway Dam site, with Martin Matisons in conjunction with Peter McCafferty and Peter Skitmore and respond to the ECRP Team accordingly.

Action: Lindsay Gillam to consult with Martin Matisons, in conjunction with Peter McCafferty and Peter Skitmore, with regard to the cleanup guideline applicable to soils in the Railway Dam site and advise the ECRP Team.

The cleanup team to receive induction from DEC or Shire on recognising the Priority 1 plant species, so as not to disturb any specimens.

7. Progress Report on ECRP Cleaning Program

Members noted:

- A report on this item by Matthew Devenish, ECRP Project Manager.
- That there had been no loss time injuries or environmental releases.
- IFAP had assessed ECRP safe work systems and procedures and had provided positive feedback. It was of particular note that the consultant had provided positive feedback on the ECRP work in roof spaces, exposure to electrical risks and working at heights risks. This was relevant in view of the occupational health and safety issues identified in the Commonwealth home insulation program.
- The cleaning targets had been revised at the end of August in accordance with the most recent and detailed sampling test results. The cleaning targets have been revised down from previous estimates. There are over 1,600 premises to be cleaned and to date about 1,100 premises have been cleaned. These cleaning targets are set out in the following table:

REVISED CLEANING TARGETS (BY CONTRACT)	ORIGINAL TARGET	REVISED TARGET	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Roof Spaces and Replacement of Insulation	445	437	2% DECREASE
Roof Surfaces, Gutters, Rainwater Tanks	1250	1005	20% DECREASE
External, Internal Surfaces and Carpets	1875	1650	12% DECREASE

- The breakdown of cleaning completions by contract type as at the end of August are set out in the following table:

CLEANING COMPLETE (BY CONTRACT)	BROUGHT FORWARD	JUN	JUL	AUG	ACTUAL TO DATE	TOTAL TARGET	% COMPLETE
Roof Spaces and Replacement of Insulation	293	12	8	8	321	437	73%
Roof Surfaces, Gutters, Rainwater Tanks	911	27	12	5	955	1005	95%
External, Internal Surfaces and Carpets	976	67	102	75	1220	1650	74%

- This table shows that the cleaning of external and internal surfaces and carpets is the category of cleaning where most work remains to be completed. It is anticipated that the percentage of homes/premises cleaned in this category will increase significantly in the next few months because of the experience gained by the ECRP team and the contractor.
- It is anticipated that bulk of the cleaning will be completed in 4 to 5 months i.e. in the first quarter of 2012.
- The cost of cleaning will be slightly under budget, although the cost of cleaning each home has increased slightly. Sampling and analysis has been slightly over budget.
- The client satisfaction survey shows that the number of respondents has stayed constant at 28% over the period of the survey. The breakdown of responses is as follows:
 1. 69% -Satisfied (a total of 90% of respondents are satisfied)
 2. 15% - Very positive experience
 3. 7% - Constructive criticism
 4. 8% - Disappointed
- All comments received have been captured on an ECRP data base.
- The ECRP Team is genuinely appreciative of the feedback from the community and has taken those comments 'on board'.

The Steering Committee acknowledged the progress made by the ECRP cleaning program and in particular the results of the client satisfaction survey.

7.1. Difficulties Encountered in Carpet Cleaning

Members noted:

- A presentation by Paul Riley, ECRP Cleaning Supervisor on the difficulties encountered in removing lead residues from carpets.
- Cleaning carpets, in order to meet the cleanup guideline, has been the most problematic cleaning area of the internal and external cleaning program.
- The initial strategy used by the cleaning team was to vacuum carpets for 3 minutes per square metre using a two directional method. Validation sampling and analysis showed that this strategy was not effective. The time delay between the cleaning operation and the results of validation testing was about 3 months. This meant that these carpets not only required re-cleaning, but a further appointment needed to be arranged with the home owner to reschedule the second cleaning. This led to long time delays of up to 6 months between the actual cleaning operations.

- The second strategy was to increase the cleaning time to 18 minutes per square metre. This also resulted in failure to meet the cleanup guideline.
- This was followed by the use of the XRF hand held instruments on site during the cleaning operation. The XRF was used to confirm that the cleaned carpets had met the guideline. However, validation laboratory analysis showed that the cleaned carpets still 'failed'. This was because there was a 40% margin of error between the results of testing between the XRF readings and the laboratory analysis.
- The next step was to apply a 20% margin to the lead readings found on the XRF instruments. This resulted in a reduced number of validation test failures. A further refinement of the strategy was taken in August 2011 when 50% margin was applied to the XRF readings. This has resulted in a 90% compliance which has been confirmed by laboratory analysis.
- The decision making process for carpet cleaning has been further improved by the identification of other factors which influence the effectiveness of carpet cleaning, such as :
 1. The condition of the carpet. The cleaning of carpets in poor condition can be influenced by the lead levels in the concrete floor below the carpet.
 2. Whether the carpets have been previously cleaned.
 3. Whether the carpets have been previously steam cleaned. It has been shown that steam cleaning results in a slurry being formed on the top of the underlay. This forms a film on drying which then requires removal. Steam cleaned carpets have proven to be particularly problematic.
 4. Some new carpets and underlays have intrinsic levels of lead. Testing of new carpets and underlays which have not been exposed to lead contamination has shown that some carpets have low lead levels. It is important to note that these intrinsic levels of lead are not bio available.
 5. Other flooring materials may also contain relatively high lead levels and these lead concentrations can contaminate the carpets and interfere with the cleaning process and achievement of the cleanup guideline. Materials of particular note are linoleum, ceramic tiles paving paints and brick paving. Lead levels have also been identified where home renovations have been carried out.
 6. Carpets have been replaced in only three homes.
- The policy on carpet validation methodology has now been documented to incorporate the findings of this work.

The Steering Committee complimented the ECRP Cleaning Team for their excellent and scientific approach to this complex issue. Members considered that the research should be the subject of a paper and submitted for publication in a scientific journal so that others can benefit from this work.

8. Sentinel Monitoring Program

Members noted:

- The draft report of Round 2 of the Sentinel Monitoring program for the period February to May 2011.
- This report was presented in a new format from that used in the Round 1 report.
- In particular the units of measurement for the depositional dust gauges had been recalculated and expressed as mg/m²/month. This is consistent with other environmental monitoring data obtained by the EsPA. The data had been presented as a series of bar graphs. (The Round 1 report had also been rewritten in this format).
- The report had been endorsed by the Sentinel Monitoring Working Group.
- The key findings from this report were as follows:
 1. There were no detectable levels of lead or nickel for any internal living areas, which is consistent with the previous round of sampling.
 2. That there were no detectable levels of nickel in any roof space but two sites (the same two sites as in the previous round of sampling) returned a positive reading.
 3. All sites returned detectable levels of lead and nickel at the external point. All sample points returned levels of lead in sufficient quantity to allow isotopic testing. The results of those tests show that all samples were not of Magellan origin.
 4. There appears to be consistently higher levels of nickel detected along the rail and close to the Port while three outermost locations (those furthest away from the rail or port) show significantly lower levels. No comparisons can be made with the previous round of sampling because the collection device changed from Petri Dish to Dust Deposition Bottle and the units of measurement changed from deposition to deposition rate. There are currently no guidelines with which to compare the deposition rate of lead or nickel in these locations.
- The Working Group had recommended that these reports be made available to the EsPA and DEC.
- ChemCentre had also provided technical advice in the preparation of this report. The ChemCentre would be responsible for the ongoing sentinel monitoring program after the completion of the ECRP. Funding had been provided for this ongoing monitoring until November 2012.
- One premise had opted out of the program and another premise, in the same vicinity, was currently being sought to enable continuity of the program and the data.

Members accepted this report.

9. Validation audit and report

Members noted:

- The ECRP and the Port of Esperance are required to undertake a validation audit and report in relation to the clean-up of the Port area and

- the Esperance townsite, prior to Magellan Metals making its final contribution payment of \$3 million towards the clean-up.
- Following the contamination of the Esperance townsite during handling and loading of lead carbonate concentrate at the Port during the period April 2005 to March 2007, the State of Western Australia, Esperance Port Authority (EsPA), Magellan Metals and Ivernia entered into a Deed of Settlement, in December 2008.
 - The Deed of Settlement dated 23 December 2008, provides that Magellan Metals will pay the State a Settlement amount of \$9 million for the clean up in the Port Area and the town of Esperance.
 - The Deed provides that this Settlement amount will be paid as three instalments of \$3 million. The Deed specifies that the payments shall be made on 31 December 2009, 31 December 2010 and 30 June 2011. The first and second payments of \$3 million have been received.
 - With regard to the third payment, clause 2.2(c) of the Deed specifies the following:

“the sum of \$3 million is to be paid by 30 June 2011 or upon receipt of the Validation Report specified in Clause 4.3 confirming that the standard of clean up has been achieved, whichever date is the later, providing that if the Validation Report confirming that the standard of clean up has been achieved is provided prior to 30 June 2011 and the third EBITDA¹ Target has been achieved then the payment shall be paid forthwith.”

¹“EBITDA” refers to Earnings Before Interest, Depreciation and Amortisation
 - The Deed defines the Validation Report as follows:

“means the report commissioned by the State and carried out by a duly qualified third party consultant and delivered to the State following completion of the clean up of the Port Area and the town of Esperance that verifies and validates that the standards of cleanup referred to in clause 4.1 have been met.”
 - With regard to the standards of clean up, clause 4.1 of the Deed states *“EsPA and the State undertake to carry out the clean up of works contemplated by this Deed in accordance with all relevant laws and all requirements, standards, notices and guidelines of the Department of Health, Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Consumer and Employment Protection.”*
 - The final payment was initially anticipated to be paid on 30 June 2011. This date was based on early predictions for practical completion of the townsite clean-up. It is accepted that the final \$3 million payment from Magellan to the State will likely now be made in the second quarter of 2012, subject to the completion of a satisfactory ‘validation report’.
 - Magellan Metals mine at Wiluna has been placed under ‘care and maintenance’ pending re-assessment of the Ministerial Conditions associated with the export of Magellan lead carbonate through the port of Fremantle. Because of this suspension of its operations, it is unknown if the EBITDA Target has been achieved.
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- The validation audit and report needs to be conducted for two main reasons:
 - i. To assess whether the cleanup of the town of Esperance conducted by the ECRP Team has been effective, for both the Esperance community and the Government, and
 - ii. To meet the requirements of the Deed of Settlement
- The validation audit needs to be open and transparent. DOT has conducted an open and transparent process in selecting suitable companies to be included on its Panel of approved contractors.
- GHD is included on the DOT Panel of approved contractors.
- GHD is included as one of the auditors on the DEC Panel of approved auditors of contaminated sites.
- The current DOT Panel of approved contractors expires at the end of November 2011. This enables the appointment of any one of those contractors from the Panel provided that the cost of the tender does not exceed \$50k.
- It is also desirable for the auditor to be appointed before the ECRP team is disbanded. The auditor should be appointed in the near future so that if there are any issues identified then these can be addressed while the ECRP team is available.
- The ECRP had engaged GHD to undertake a Methodology and Process Audit of the ECRP sampling and cleaning procedures in 2010. The audit report outlined the findings of the review and presented conclusions on the suitability of the methodologies to achieve the project objectives.

Members considered that it would be appropriate if DOT [via Michael Jackson] in conjunction with the ECRP Team prepared a request for quotation, through the DOT panel, for the validation audit and report, as soon as possible. Members therefore agreed that DOT in conjunction with the ECRP Team should determine the contract process and selection of an auditor to conduct the validation audit and report in accordance with Government processes.

Members considered that there were several other related issues to the closure of the ECRP such as:

1. The mechanism for closure of the project in relation to reports and publishing of findings and outcomes
2. The likely statements that would be made from government, and government agencies in this regard, and which agencies would make these statements.
3. The views of the Esperance community, the Shire and the ECCI as to acceptable closeout reporting and associated statements.

In relation to these matters, Members considered:

- It was important that the experience gained throughout the ECRP process and the associated documentation to be 'written up' and available for posterity.

- There is national and international anticipation of the information which has been learnt from the ECRP project.
- The Project Team will be responsible for preparing the final report covering the documents, guidelines etc and data generated through the ECRP. The report would be prepared as a draft report and then peer reviewed by the Steering Committee.
- A suggestion by Peter Skitmore that the DEC multi media team could be requested to assist in preparing some of the ECRP learnings in the form of a series of video clips which would show the discrete processes that have been developed such as used such as gutter cleaning or carpet cleaning process. This would ensure that the information is preserved for use as an e-learning resource.
- That it needs to be determined how the Esperance community wishes to see the close out of the Esperance cleanup. This needs to be assessed in terms of the general community and Esperance based businesses. It was recognised that the earlier media campaign carried out in 2007 was premature. It was noted that some instance of potential employees who are still reluctant to move to Esperance because of the stigma of the Esperance lead contamination.
- It also needs to be determined how Government, respective Ministers and government agencies wish to manage the close out of the ECRP, recognising that several Ministers are represented by the agencies on the Steering Committee.
- That the ECRP was appropriate for nomination for a Premier's Science Award. The process of nomination alone would demonstrate the success of the ECRP.
- That the media philosophy associated with the finality of the cleanup needs to be handled carefully and strategically. Raising this matter in the media is most likely to result in presentation of the previous images of the lead contamination, bird deaths etc. The media strategy should promote Esperance and, if possible, restore its pristine reputation.
- The validation audit and report should provide the proof that the lead, and nickel, contamination of Esperance has been cleaned, and this report should then be the basis for strategies to restore the reputation of Esperance.

Action:

- 1. DOT in conjunction with the ECRP Team to prepare a Request for Quotation for the validation audit and report, as soon as possible.**
- 2. Wayne Winchester to contact GHD and advise that a validation audit and report on the ECRP and the cleanup of the Esperance port was required, and that a Request for Quotation would be issued shortly**
- 3. The validation audit and report should be used as a basis for strategies in restoring the reputation of Esperance.**

10. ECRP Financial update and budget control measures

Members noted:

- A report on this item by Wayne Winchester, Project Director.
- The ECRP prepares a series of financial summaries on a regular basis.
- A series of budget documents showing the various levels of reporting to the end of August 2011.
- The total cost tracking for life of project shows:
 - That the forecast against actual expenditure have aligned very well
 - That the budget was approximately \$1million under budget at the time of the meeting.
 - It is anticipated that the ECRP will be about \$400k under budget at project completion.
 - That the gap between forecast and actual widens in July due to mutual stand down of Roof Surface contract, awaiting further work.
- That the cumulative costs over life of project, across the 3 key components are as follows:
 - Overhead costs [includes salaries and wages for staff, property lease, equipment and consumables] have generally remained constant, at approximately 13% of the budget.
 - Cleaning costs have increased significantly from August-September 2010 as the ECRP has progressed.
 - Sampling costs have remained steady.
- The budget summary by key project areas is as follows:
 - Sampling and Analysis will be over budget, primarily due to retention of sampling and data analysis personnel for validation sampling
 - Cleaning will be slightly under budget due to improvements in cleaning processes.
 - Overheads will be on budget, but the earlier the project can finish, the more potential for savings.
- The cost updates for each of the cleaning contracts shows that :
 - Gutter cleaning will be significantly under budget
 - Internal/External will be slightly over budget (mainly due to difficulties of carpet cleaning)
 - Roof spaces will be slightly over budget (this includes approximately 12 re-roofs).

Members congratulated the ECRP team on the management of the budget and the presentation of the budget analysis and report.

11. Other Business

11.1. Esperance Agricultural Show

Members discussed:

- The proposed theme for the ECRP display stand at the Esperance Agricultural Show to be held on 21-22 October 2011.
- That the theme should be along the lines that “the ECRP project is almost there/almost finished”

- This could be visualised using an hour glass or a thermometer and accompanied by pie charts, graphs and maps showing data on the percentage completion, the area of ECRP work and cleaning etc.
- Other information considered informative and relevant to the community included an explanation of isotopic testing, and the results of community satisfaction surveys.
- Steering Committee community members were encouraged to participate with the ECRP Team on the stand.

Action: ECRP Team to circulate to Steering Committee members, material intended for use at the Esperance Agricultural Show.

11.2. Installation by EsPA of additional HiVol monitors in Esperance Community

Members noted:

- That since the last meeting, DOH had confirmed that it supported the installation of the two additional HiVol monitors in the Esperance community.
- Advice from Alex Leonard that the Minister for Transport had advised the only remaining bulk nickel sulphide concentrate exporter, BHPB Nickel West, that if it wished to continue export of nickel concentrate in bulk then it would need to fund the repairs to the shiploader. The auditing engineers had given an extension of the 'expiry' date for use of the shiploader, in its current condition, from 30 June 2011 until 8 October 2011. This means that the bulk circuit will be in-operable after that date.
- EsPA has proposed changes to its environmental monitoring program to capture nickel dust on a 24/7 (weekly) basis at HiVol monitors located on the port boundary. However monitoring would also enable 24 hour monitoring during shiploading of nickel concentrate.
- EsPA had also proposed to remove those depositional dust gauges which are in low exposure conditions and are consistently showing very low levels of nickel i.e. below the limit of detection. These depositional dust gauges are associated with rain water tanks. These amendments have been referred for community consultation and a response is awaited from LED. Pending support from the community, the EsPA will seek an amendment to its current licence through DEC.
- EsPA will delay the installation of the additional community HiVols pending the outcome of negotiations with BHPB Nickel West on the export of bulk nickel sulphide concentrate. Members agreed with this position.

Actions:

- **Peter Skitmore to provide up to date excel spread sheets of data sets of all environmental emission results for each site to Michelle Crisp**
- **Michelle Crisp to follow through on the LED response to the amendments to the environmental monitoring program as proposed by EsPA.**

11.3.Update on Esperance Port Authority Environmental Emission

Data

Members noted:

- A report on this item by Peter Skitmore.
- There were no lead levels recorded in any gauges for an extended period.
- Nickel levels were very low but still present and detectable and showed either residual nickel or very reduced concentrate. Potentially exports and receipt were still influencing nickel levels and therefore measurable by air quality monitors.

Action: Peter Skitmore to provide a copy of the update air quality data to Michael Jackson for distribution to members out of session and loading onto the ONCue website.

11.4.Report on compliance of nickel emissions with annual nickel guideline

Discussion of this item was held by teleconference with Mirella Goetzmann, Senior Toxicologist, DOH.

Members noted:

- DOH comment that the nickel emissions at all four HiVol monitor sites on the boundary of the Esperance port appeared to be tracking below the annual guideline. However, the data was yet to be evaluated and more closely assessed.
- DOH will prepare a report on this matter and refer this, through the Chair, to members out of session. The report will include an assessment for both the calendar year and a rolling average.
- That the HiVol monitor at Site 4 has recently been moved.

Action: DOH to refer the assessment of nickel emissions against the annual guideline to members out of session .

11.5.Esperance Transport Corridor – Lead and Nickel Management

Strategy

Members noted:

- This time was introduced by Sergio Martinez, Project Manager Infrastructure Delivery, Mainroads WA.
- The Lead and Nickel Management Strategy for the Esperance Transport Corridor document dated August 2011.
- That the dust management plan would minimise the remobilisation of any lead and nickel residues in the soil.
- That the tender for this contract is likely to be awarded in February 2012.
- That the Table in Clause 8 of the document specified certain actions if dust levels are detected during works on the project. The entry for lead

specified an annual maximum concentration of $0.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Members considered that a 24 hour action level should be specified. Peter Skitmore suggested that the recent lead emission target levels recommended by the DOH and incorporated into the licence for the Geraldton Port Authority would be appropriate in this instance. There are two 24 hour target levels in that licence as follows: $0.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and $2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

- Comment by Peter Skitmore that the use of Osiris dust gauges would be less expensive than the use of TEOM's and provide realtime dust measurement of Total Suspended Particulates (TSP). These instruments were used successfully during the bagging and containerisation operations of the Magellan Metals lead carbonate which was 'stranded' at the Esperance port.
- That the survey of soils carried out by the ECRP Sampling Team along the transport route had shown that the highest concentrations of lead and nickel in the soil profile were found in the surface layers. It would therefore be prudent if these topsoils are placed within an embankment immediately they are removed, and the Strategy should be amended to reflect this.
- DEC, in conjunction with DOH, would provide further advice to Main Roads WA on these issues.

Action: DEC in conjunction with DOH would provide advice to Mainroads WA on the following matters:

- **24 hour lead emission target action level**
- **Use of Osiris dust gauges**
- **Removal and placement of topsoils to minimise dusts and remobilisation of lead and nickel residues.**

12. Next meeting

Members considered that the next meeting of the Steering Committee should be convened in early 2012 at a date to be determined in consultation with members.

13. Close of meeting

The Chair thanked members for their contributions to the meeting. A special mention of thanks was given to Becky Callender for her assistance in facilitating the arrangements for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 5.25 pm.

ESPERANCE CLEANUP AND RECOVERY PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

16 June 2011

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. DEC Report on Lead and Nickel Levels in Esperance Vegetation
Action: Peter Skitmore to provide a copy of the 2011 Report of the Study of Lead and Nickel Levels in Esperance Vegetation to Steering Committee Members and place the report on the DEC website..

2. Progress report on the ECRP Sampling Program-disposal of contaminated soils
Action: Wayne Winchester to follow through with the Red Hill Landfill facility on the acceptability of batches of contaminated soils at a Class 3 landfill facility..

3. Report on sampling and analysis of Esperance grown fruits, vegetables and eggs
Action: ECRP Team to finalise report on lead and nickel in fruits, vegetables and eggs produced in Esperance and refer to members out of session.

4. Progress Report on Sampling of Homes and Other Premises
Action: ECRP Team to request DOH to prepare separate maps for isotopic testing for each particular type of sampling carried out.

5. Remediation of the Railway Dam site
Action: Lindsay Gillam to consult with Martin Matisons, in conjunction with Peter McCafferty and Peter Skitmore, with regard to the cleanup guideline applicable to soils in the Railway Dam site and advise the ECRP Team. The cleanup team to receive induction from DEC or Shire on recognising the Priority 1 plant species, so as not to disturb any specimens..

6. Validation audit and report
Action:

1. DOT in conjunction with the ECRP Team to prepare a Request for Quotation for the validation audit and report, as soon as possible.
2. Wayne Winchester to contact GHD and advise that a validation audit and report on the ECRP and the cleanup of the Esperance port was required, and that a Request for Quotation would be issued shortly
3. The validation audit and report should be used as a basis for strategies in restoring the reputation of Esperance.

7. Esperance Agricultural Show
Action: ECRP Team to circulate to Steering Committee members, material intended for use at the Esperance Agricultural Show.

8. Installation by EsPA of additional HiVol monitors in Esperance Community

Actions:

- Peter Skitmore to provide up to date excel spread sheets of data sets of all environmental emission results for each site to Michelle Crisp.
- Michelle Crisp to follow through on the LED response to the amendments to the environmental monitoring program as proposed by EsPA

9. Update on Esperance Port Authority Environmental Emission Data

Action: Peter Skitmore to provide a copy of the update air quality data to Michael Jackson for distribution to members out of session and loading onto the ONCue website.

10. Report on compliance of nickel emissions with annual nickel guideline

Action: DOH to refer the assessment of nickel emissions against the annual guideline to members out of session.

11. Esperance Transport Corridor – Lead and Nickel Management Strategy

Action: DEC in conjunction with DOH would provide advice to Mainroads WA on the following matters:

- 24 hour lead emission target action level
- Use of Osiris dust gauges
- Removal and placement of topsoils to minimise dusts and remobilisation of lead and nickel residues.

