



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Project snapshot

The Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project (ECRP) has established a temporary waste disposal and sampling facility at the Wylie Bay refuse site. Waste material from the cleaning phase of the project is being held in locked sea containers at the site, before being tested and classified to determine the appropriate final disposal location.

Key project outcomes

The key project outcomes to date are as follows:

	<u>To end of July</u>
Total number of premises sampled	1070
Total number of samples sent to ChemCentre for testing	39,923
Total number of premises analysed against the ECRP guidelines	764
Total number of premises identified as requiring some form of cleaning	714
Total number of premises where cleaning has been completed	76

Sampling and analysis

Sampling has been completed for most of Stage 6 (see map on page 4) and sampling has now commenced in Stages 7 and 8. Letters seeking consent to sample have been posted to the first batch of 150 owners of premises located within Stage 9. Letters will be sent to the remaining premises (approx 350) over the coming month.

In addition to the standard premises sampling, the ECRP sampling and data analysis team is now providing:

- Sampling of waste material that has been removed during the cleaning process, to determine classification levels for appropriate disposal.
- Soil remediation investigations on areas where soils at individual premises have been found to exceed ECRP guidelines. These areas are predominantly at the base of rainwater downpipes that open directly onto the ground.

The volume of samples sent to the ChemCentre has increased due to the additional requirement for validation samples. This is causing issues for ChemCentre in keeping up with the volume of samples. A plan to resolve the situation is currently being developed between ECRP and the ChemCentre.

The sampling team has increased by two members to accommodate the additional sampling requirements for waste, soils and validations.

Asbestos roofs

Asbestos roof sampling has commenced using the Micro-Vac Surface Sampling Vacuum System. This method has proven reliable and safe for the sampling of asbestos roofs. It is anticipated that all asbestos roofs within the affected area will be sampled by the end of November 2010.



Waste disposal

The established waste sampling and disposal facility located at Wylie Bay refuse site is now being used by the sampling team and cleaning contractors. A 20ft sea container has been custom fitted to conduct waste sampling and has a high quality dust extraction system installed to ensure no dust exposure to staff or the environment.

There are four 40ft containers for waste storage and each container is treated as a separate waste batch. The results of leachability testing on each waste batch will determine the appropriate waste facility for disposal. The results from the first batch of testing are expected before the end of August 2010.

Health, safety and environment risk reviews - sampling

The sampling and analysis team has completed 80 per cent of the actions raised during their recent risk assessment review (July 2010). There have been no lost time injuries or significant incidents on the project to date.

Four improvements to safety were suggested by ECRP staff and implemented during July:

- Traffic cones and signs to mark the loading zone on Dempster Street.
- A personal protective equipment procedure to cover the appropriate order to fit and remove items such as gloves, overalls and masks.
- A separate waste disposal bin for personal protective equipment that might contain asbestos.
- A training register to ensure all staff are properly trained in each method of sampling.

Children's playgrounds

Soil and swab samples have been taken from all 22 parks in Esperance between May and June 2010. All results were within ECRP guidelines for children, except for samples taken from older style (more than 10 years old) fibreglass slides and playground equipment. These results showed elevated levels of lead. Tests have shown that this is most likely lead (II) chromate ($PbCrO_4$), which has a vivid yellow colour and is used as a colouring pigment for paints and coatings. The ECRP sampling team will conduct a program of re-sampling the parks in late August 2010 and will include the public open space along the foreshore area. A report on the findings of the playgrounds sampling program will be prepared and forwarded to the Shire of Esperance.

Cleaning

The month of July was a ramp-up period for all three cleaning contracts. The contractors have worked safely under close supervision by the ECRP and there are no serious incidents or injuries to report.

Roof space cleaning has made a slow start but is now seeing the average house cleaned within eight hours, including insulation replacement if applicable. The ECRP has implemented a detailed checklist to ensure that the cleaning is conducted to a high standard and that any insulation replacement complies with AS3999 (thermal insulation of dwellings) and AS3000 (wiring rules).

Roof surface, gutter and rainwater tank cleaning commenced at 25 individual premises. While gutter cleaning was required at each of those premises, only 50 per cent required roof surface cleaning and 30 per cent required water tank cleaning or replacement.



Internal and external surface and carpet cleaning commenced at 40 individual premises. In respect to carpets, the validation process has revealed, as it did in the trial cleaning project, that the wide variation in carpet type and age produces mixed results. Those carpets that fail the first validation are cleaned again and those that fail the second validation are replaced.

ECRP database and mapping

Sample results from 400 premises have now been provided to the Department of Health (DoH) for archiving onto the dedicated ECRP database. DoH has provided initial mapping of these results to provide a visual representation related to the sampling and cleaning components of the project.

ECRP site visit by ChemCentre staff

The ChemCentre personnel who visited the ECRP project on Friday 30 July 2010 were welcomed by all. They had a very busy day and experienced the sampling process first hand. Several positive ideas came out of discussions between ECRP samplers and ChemCentre personnel and included:

- Improved labelling procedures for samples.
- Agreement on actual quantities of sample required for each type of analysis.
- Improved procedures for containerising samples and returning them to Esperance for archiving.

ChemCentre personnel also had the opportunity to view the cleaning operations in progress, the waste sampling and storage facility; and the sample archiving area.



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*Visit the OnCue website to view previous
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Map showing project stages

