



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Fieldwork for broad based soil sampling across Esperance is complete and samples are currently being analysed for lead and nickel levels. Cleaning of homes in the Stage One area is progressing while residents in the Stage Two area, adjoining and extending to the west of Stage One, have been contacted to seek consent for sampling.

The following items highlight the progress against the various project activities currently underway:

Stage One Sampling

Forty-one premises have been sampled out of the 50 identified in the Stage One area. Some of those remaining premises have been scheduled for sampling in the coming weeks and while one resident has declined to have their house sampled, the eight remaining owners and occupiers are still being followed up. As results of Stage One sampling continue to arrive from the ChemCentre, they will be assessed against the guidelines and cleaning requirements established.

Stage One Cleaning

Ten premises have so far been assessed and eight of those require cleaning to some degree. For each of those premises requiring cleaning, an individual cleaning work pack is generated in consultation with the resident. Four of those homes have already been cleaned and a further four homes are being scheduled for cleaning in the coming weeks. Validation sampling has also been undertaken to ensure the cleaning process has been successful.

Waste Disposal

Secure, temporary storage sites for the cleanup waste materials have been established at the Wiley Bay waste disposal facility. Once sufficient volumes are deposited in the bins, leachability testing will be undertaken on the wastes to determine the long-term disposal solution. Waste water from roof and rainwater tank cleaning is being temporarily stored in a controlled waste tank. All waste will then be transported out of Esperance to approved disposal sites.

Stage Two Sampling

Stage Two of the project has been identified as an area to the west of Stage One and to the south of the railway line, comprising just over 100 premises. Letters have been sent to owners and occupiers to request permission to undertake sampling in this area. The ECRP team has inducted and trained eight samplers in order to meet the rapidly increasing demands for sampling.





Sampling Protocols

Golder Associates report, *"Data Gap Analysis and Sampling and Analysis Plan"* has been finalised and will be made available on the OnCue website. The ECRP team has progressed broad soil sampling (Type "A") under guidance from the plan.

Broad Based Soil Sampling (Type "A")

Based on Golder Associate's *"Sampling and Analysis Plan"*, the project team has completed broad soil sampling at over 250 locations across the townsite. Some outlying bush areas have been excluded due to inaccessibility. Once the test results of the surrounding sites to these inaccessible areas are received, a decision will be made on whether or not to pursue sampling within these remote locations. Testing will be undertaken using the Niton XRF Analyser, with one in ten samples being sent for testing to the ChemCentre for quality control purposes.

Type "A" soil sampling is being undertaken to determine an "area of interest" of likely contamination within the Esperance townsite. Combined with other datasets, this will assist in determining where further detailed sampling will be undertaken. All premises that fall within the "area of interest" will be sampled and residents will be contacted for consent prior to this detailed sampling being carried out at individual premises.

Sample preparation and analysis

The ECRP laboratory has been set up in the Department of Agriculture and Food WA buildings on the outskirts of Esperance. This has provided a welcome relief to the cramped conditions and lack of appropriate facilities that were being experienced at the ECRP head office in Dempster Street, Esperance.

Data Management

ESRI Australia has undertaken a site visit to the ECRP offices in Esperance as the first stage of customising our database to meet the specific needs of the project. Now that sampling, cleaning and validation is underway, there is a more detailed understanding of the unique workflow requirements to deliver successful and efficient project outcomes.

Project Presentations – Eastern Goldfields Regional Environmental Health Group

ECRP Project Director, Wayne Winchester and ECRP Project Manager Evaluation and Monitoring, Kieron Smith gave a presentation to the above group on 30th October 2009 in Norseman. In addition to providing an overview of the project and the linkages between the various stakeholders and project partners, the achievements of the ECRP to date were also outlined, along with the timeline for future activities. Kieron Smith provided a presentation on the Plume Dispersion Modelling that was undertaken to assist in identifying the likely area of dust fallout across the townsite.

Media

Since the recent fine handed down to the Port, there has been much media interest in the ECRP, which is seen as the next and final stage of managing the impact from lead shiploading activities at the Port. Articles, letters to the editor and editorials have appeared regularly in the Esperance Express over recent weeks. The ECRP Director, Wayne Winchester also gave a live interview with ABC regional radio on Thursday 5th November 2009.



ECRP staff matters

Interviews have been held for the ECRP Project Administration Officer, and a recommendation has been made. Transport's Human Resource Section is currently finalising the process and the successful applicants will be advised of the outcome within the coming week.



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