



---

## Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

Wayne Winchester, Project Director

---

Cleaning of the Esperance townsite is about to commence. Tenders have closed for Stage One of the Cleaning Project and the assessment to select a successful cleaning contractor is currently underway.

Following presentation to the Steering Committee of the recently completed Sampling and Analysis Plan, detailed sampling is also set to commence across the entire townsite.

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

### **Stage One Cleaning**

The results of the 21 homes sampled earlier this year have been assessed against the established cleanup guidelines to determine which homes qualify for cleaning. A further block of 40 homes in close proximity to the port have also been identified for sampling and assessment. Those homes that qualify for cleaning will be included in the scope of work for Stage One of the cleaning project.

Engagement of the owner/occupiers will commence early next week followed by a rolling wave of sampling, analysis and cleaning, once consent for the work is obtained from the owners/occupiers. The cleaning contract is expected to run for approximately 8 weeks.

### **Cleanup Guidelines for roof spaces**

Following sampling of roof spaces in Esperance and Albany, results have been received from the ChemCentre Perth and are being reviewed.

Initial results show a good association between the Niton XRF field results and the chemistry results. The Niton XRF is a hand held portable X-ray device which gives immediate on-site readings of the samples taken, as opposed to the chemistry laboratory analysis whereby samples are sent to Perth and results take several days to obtain.

To determine whether a roof space needs cleaning or not, an assessment process will be made on a case by case basis using a decision-tree approach. Factors to be taken into account include the proximity to the port, the concentration of lead and nickel from the sampling and analysis, the total loadings within the roof space, the roof type and whether sarking is present, along with the design and the condition of the premise [i.e the potential for material from the roof space to enter the internal areas of the home].

### **Data Management**

The project team in Esperance have been granted temporary access to the Department of Health database. The aim is for the team to trial the user-interface to ascertain if the functionality is suitable for the upcoming detailed sampling project. Installation of the new, permanent project database is due in early October 2009 with customisation of the user-interface to follow.



### **Sampling Protocols**

Golder Associates have completed a draft of the "Data Gap Analysis and Sampling and Analysis Plan". Golders will provide a presentation to the Steering Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009. Once finalised, detailed sampling will commence.

### **Soil sample preparation and analysis**

The ECRP has approached the Department of Agriculture and Food Esperance Office, to request use of their soil research laboratory for the preparation and field analysis of soil and dust samples. We are expecting to take a large number of soil samples across Esperance during the cleanup and need a place to perform the soil sample preparation and use a sieve shaker to get the sample into a proper form for wet chemistry analysis. The ECRP office in Dempster Street is not suitable for the use of such equipment and the lab at the Department of Agriculture would be ideal. An in principle agreement has been reached and we are now in the process of formalising the arrangement.

### **Community Presentations**

Work is underway on the design and content of the ECRP display and information booth at the upcoming Esperance Agricultural Show from 16-17 October 2009.