



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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The ECRP team has identified a likely area of elevated lead concentrations across the townsite using available datasets and computer modelling. This area will be refined as we systematically sample in a staged approach to determine the actual levels and the degree of cleaning required at individual premises. A total of 140 premises have now been sampled.

The image below indicates the location of the Project Stages.





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

Sampling

Letters seeking consent to sample have now been sent to all 220 premises in Stage Three. The Project Team has engaged 11 samplers through local labour hire companies and undertaken appropriate training. The sampling team is currently sampling 20 premises per week and is continually booked up two weeks in advance. Additional sampling equipment is currently being purchased as the sampling program is expected to double in the coming months.

Data Analysis

Three data analysers have now been engaged through local labour hire companies to assist with the high volume of sample data coming through each week. The data analysis team is almost up-to-date with the backlog of sample results. Premises owners and occupiers are being contacted immediately when their results become available. Analysis of the results to date shows that approximately two thirds of all premises sampled require some form of cleaning.

Trial Cleaning Program

The Trial Cleaning Project is in progress and 11 homes have been completed to date. The Trial Cleaning Project was initially intended for the 21 homes sampled early last year. The level of cleaning required in those homes, however, was very limited and the Trial was subsequently expanded to include some homes from Stage One. Additional funding has been allocated to the Trial to better allow continuity of cleaning prior to the commencement of the Major Cleaning Project.

Major Cleaning Program

Three separate tenders were advertised in December 2009 for Roof Space Cleaning, Roof Surface Cleaning (including rainwater tanks) and Internal and External Surface Cleaning. An industry site inspection for these major cleaning tenders was held at the ECRP offices in Esperance on 13 January 2010 and was very well attended. Tenders close in the next few weeks and tender award is anticipated in April/May 2010. Mobilisation of teams and commencement of cleaning is expected in June/July 2010.

Tenderers have been advised that the majority of cleaning is expected to be completed by the end of 2010 but this will be confirmed when the exact scope of the work is finalised.

Data Management

Trilogy Resources has been engaged and is currently developing a customised computer application to help manage the sampling and cleaning workflow. The system will be used to manage customer information, sampling and cleaning bookings, sampling data, cleaning worksheets, validation results and customised forms to aid efficient workflow processes. The system will be compatible with the previously established ECRP database, which currently resides on a server within the Department of Health.

Golder Report – Esperance Townsite Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment

The Department of Environment and Conservation has released the “Esperance Townsite Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment” report, which was prepared by Golder Associates. Copies of the document are available for viewing at the ECRP offices and CDs



are available for distribution. A link from the OnCue website has been provided to the document on DEC's website.

Project Presentations – “Over the Horizon”

The ECRP has been invited to provide a presentation and have a static booth display at the upcoming “Over the Horizon” seminar, to be held at the Esperance Civic Centre on 4 March 2010. This event is being organised by the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will have representation from industry, government and commercial stakeholders to discuss the future strategic outlook for the region.

Office Accommodation

Additional office and laboratory space is required closer to the ECRP head office to ensure the most efficient project workflow. The ECRP has negotiated a lease to occupy premises on Dempster Street, approximately 200m from the existing ECRP head office. The 100sqm premises will replace the laboratory space that currently exists at the Department of Agriculture on the outskirts of Esperance. The ECRP head office will remain at Unit 2b 113 Dempster Street.

Equipment

Project Manager Evaluation and Monitoring, Kieron Smith, has designed a customised compact vacuum sampling system specifically for collecting dust samples in roof spaces. The existing system is cumbersome to use in roof spaces and has been identified as a potential Occupational Health and Safety risk. A prototype model is currently being fabricated and once this proves suitable, additional units will be manufactured to allocate one unit to each sampling team.

ECRP staff matters

The entire team enjoyed a well earned break over Christmas and New Year during the closure of the office between 24 December 2009 and 11 January 2010. Everyone is now looking forward to a busy year ahead as we start to ramp up into the detailed sampling and major cleaning phases of the project.



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