



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Project snapshot

Detailed sampling has now been conducted at approximately 400 premises. Although the proportion of premises requiring some form of cleaning continues to be about 90 per cent, trends are showing that the actual amount of cleaning required at individual premises is starting to reduce as the project moves into areas further away from the port.

Premises sampling

Letters seeking consent to sample have now been sent to all owners and occupiers in Stage 4 (see map on page 3) and sampling is now underway in this stage. As the sampling teams have moved into Stage 4, we are seeing an increase in the number of commercial properties being sampled. A level of flexibility in the start and finish times for the sampling is being accommodated to ensure minimum disruption to local businesses. The teams are often undertaking the sampling process outside of normal business hours at commercial premises.

Data analysis

Additional data analysis personnel have been engaged to provide the level of resources required to ensure timely analysis of sample results returned from ChemCentre. The delays being experienced in the earlier stages of the project have now been overcome. A critical component of the overall project is to have enough cleaning work lined up for when the major cleaning project commences in June/July. The data analysis team now has approximately 200 cleaning jobs ready to go. This number will continue to increase prior to commencement of the major cleaning contracts, providing confidence that there will be no delays due to lack of work once the cleaning teams commence.

Cleaning

The trial cleaning project has been completed. A total of 35 premises were cleaned under the trial, which has provided invaluable experience as we now start to move into the major cleaning phase of the project. The major cleaning project has been separated into three separate contracts:

1. Roof surfaces (including gutters and rainwater tanks)
2. Roof spaces (including replacement of insulation)
3. Internal/external cleaning.

Tenders have been received and contracts are expected to be awarded before the end of May. It is anticipated that work on the major cleaning contracts will commence in June/July.

Data management

The Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project (ECRP) team and the Department of Transport have been working closely with the project's software consultant to user test the new computer application interface that will help manage the sampling and cleaning workflow. The software consultant is now creating the live version of the software to install on the ECRP network, which is due to be fully operational at the end of this month.



Asbestos roofs

Special sampling techniques are required for the sampling of asbestos roof surfaces. An asbestos roof sampling/personal air monitor kit has been sourced for use in the project and will be used to determine the lead and nickel levels on asbestos roof surfaces. The equipment can also be used to determine the levels of lead and nickel that people and areas are exposed to, which can provide a quantitative risk assessment to see if there are levels of concern in the workplace.

Project presentations – Department of Transport and ChemCentre

An overview presentation will be provided by the ECRP Director to senior staff within the Department of Transport's Transport Industry Policy division on Wednesday 14 April and to ChemCentre management and staff on Thursday 15 April.

Office accommodation

The fit-out of the additional ECRP premises at 125A Dempster Street is complete and staff members are now operating from this facility. An additional self storage unit has also been leased to house the vast number of samples that are required to be stored for the term of the project.

ECRP organisational structure

The ECRP currently employs 22 full time personnel in the areas of sampling and cleaning project management, customer liaison, sampling and validation, sample preparation, chain of custody, data analysis, and safety advisors. It is anticipated that this will increase to approximately 80 full time personnel working on the project once the major cleaning work commences in June.



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Map showing Project Stages

