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## Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

21 December 2010

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Issue 20

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### Project snapshot

As the year draws to a close, the project team would like to especially thank the Esperance community, who have been so positively involved in this project. It is also timely to acknowledge the huge effort and contribution of our key project stakeholders, particularly the government agencies and community members on the ECRP Steering Committee. We also acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our cleaning contractors, who are undertaking the enormous and often difficult task of cleaning across the townsite. Although the ECRP has made significant progress during the past 12 months, there is still considerable work to be done and the project team is looking forward to another busy year ahead.

### Key project outcomes

The key project outcomes to the end of November are as follows:

Total number of premises sampled	1589
Total number of samples sent to ChemCentre for testing	67,000
Total number of premises analysed against the ECRP guidelines	1315
Total number of premises identified as requiring some form of cleaning	1232
Total number of premises where cleaning has been completed	357

### Health, safety and environment

All contract staff, including samplers and cleaners, continued to work under close supervision by the ECRP and there were no injuries to report. There were, however, two reportable incidents which have both been investigated and addressed by the relevant contractors.

### Sampling

Detailed sampling continued in the outer areas of Stage 9, with approximately half of that stage now complete. Preliminary results from Stage 9 have indicated that sampling will also be required further west in the newly created Stage 10 (see back page for a revised map of stages).

The ongoing requirement for validation samples has increased significantly this month and over 1600 validation samples were sent to the ChemCentre for analysis in November.

Although the ECRP cleaning has been effective in removing deposited lead dust, the validation team is regularly identifying sources of lead other than from ship loading events at the port or rail movements. This other source appears to be inherent in the material itself, for example glazed floor tiles and some old painted surfaces. Further cleaning by the ECRP would not, therefore, be effective in permanently reducing the levels of lead in these areas.

To further assist the ECRP in the investigation of "other" sources, each sampling team will now carry a Niton XRF Analyser to all sampling locations, thus enabling samplers to obtain real time data and to identify surfaces containing common lead base contaminants, prior to commencement of cleaning. The ECRP gained approval in November to purchase an

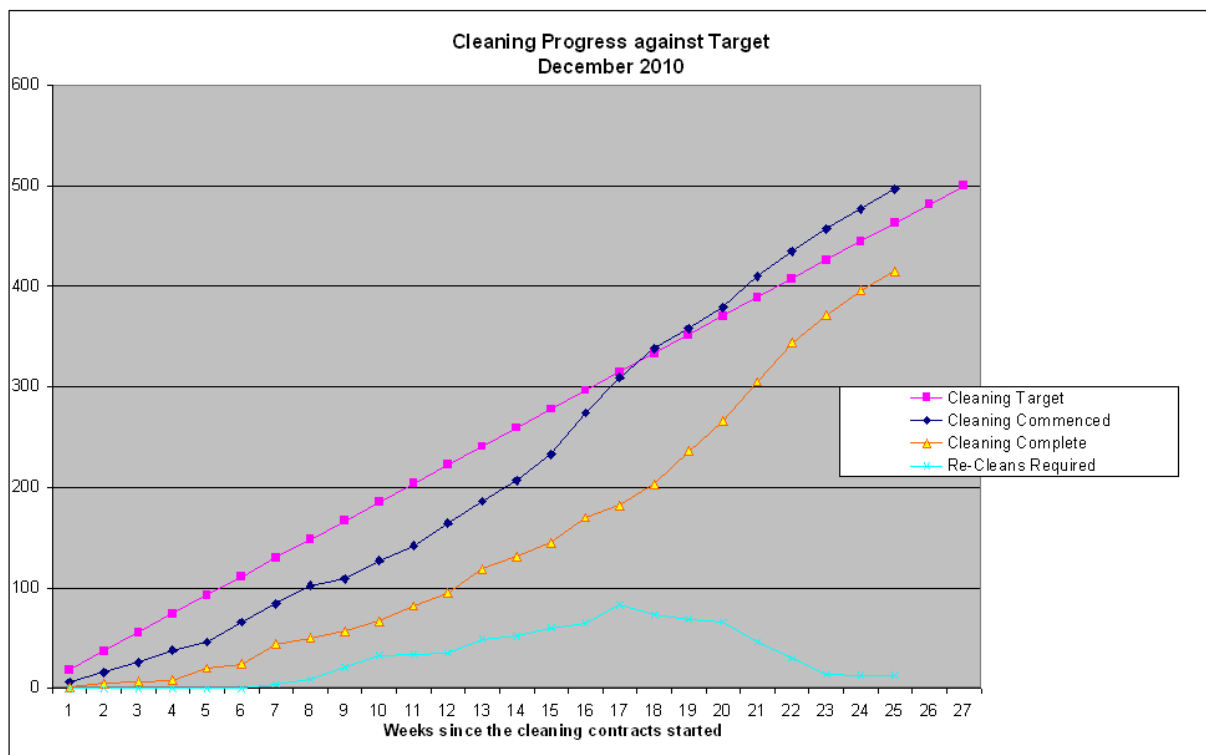


additional 4 Niton XRF Portable Analysers. These should arrive in Esperance early in the New Year.

### Cleaning

After sampling and analysing the first 100 homes in 2009, the project team anticipated a workload of no more than 500 homes and expected the bulk of the cleaning to be achieved by the end of December 2010. Based on the latest sampling and analysis in the outer stages of the project, it is now anticipated that cleaning may be required at approximately 1800 premises and will extend to the end of 2011.

The graph below shows the progress against the original target of 500 homes and shows that the bulk of the originally anticipated cleaning will in fact be accomplished on target.



During November, the three cleaning contracts performed as follows:

- Internal and external surfaces and carpets – 99 premises were cleaned. In addition, 66 homes from the previous months cleaning required a second visit from the cleaning crews, mainly due to the presence of lead sources other than deposited lead dust from the port. Where other sources are positively identified, the project will note this on the cleaning report to the client.
- Roof spaces – 48 roof spaces were cleaned in November. Roof spaces are particularly difficult work areas and the contractor is working hard to minimise damage that occurs as a result of the cleaning.
- Roof surfaces, gutters, downpipes and rainwater tanks – 86 premises were cleaned. The recently acquired trailer-mounted cleaning unit has proven particularly effective in reaching those gutters and tanks where access is limited.



### **Project presentations**

The ECRP Director provided an end of year project summary and forward planning presentation to the respective cleaning contract companies over successive evenings on 30 November and 1 December 2010. Project expectations in respect to safety and performance were also outlined. The presentations were very well attended, with approximately 25 personnel at each session. There was an extremely positive response from the cleaning contractors and we all look forward to continuing our close working relationship to successfully complete the work ahead of us.

### **Closure over the Christmas/New Year break**

The ECRP offices will be closed from Friday evening 24 December 2010 and will re-open on Monday morning 10 January 2011.

The cleaning contractors will be returning to work on 4 January 2011 and the ECRP will have a skeleton staff available for supervision and administration.

Urgent matters or public enquiries during this period are being referred to the Director on his mobile 0417 956 640.



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*Visit the OnCue website to view previous  
Project Updates and other related ECRP information.*

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Map showing Project Stages