



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

20th July 2009

Wayne Winchester, Project Director

Preparatory work is moving forward in a systematic manner to allow an informed, comprehensive and thorough cleanup of the Esperance townsite. Excellent progress has been made on the precursor projects which are required before detailed sampling and cleanup across the townsite commences.

The following brief update highlights the progress against each of these projects:

Remobilisation Project

The key finding from this consultancy, undertaken by Mr Jim Malcolm (environmental consultant), was that the proposed cleanup of lead contamination in targeted houses can proceed with confidence that there will be no significant recontamination from ambient air remobilization of lead residues in the township. The report noted that it is essential that EsPA adheres to best practice dust controls and avoidance of nickel handling in onshore winds if the threat of recontamination with nickel is to be avoided. The report also emphasised the critical importance of quality cleaning procedures to prevent the opportunity for future remobilization.

Data Management Project

After receiving a presentation of the DoH database that will be used as the foundation of a custom built ECRP database, I am confident that limited customisation will be required and that it will primarily focus around presentation of the data.

Trial Cleaning Project

Premises have been selected to be cleaned as a trial project. An assessment has been made against the established Cleanup Guidelines from the results of the 21 homes previously sampled earlier this year. A determination is being made of what needs to be cleaned for each home, prior to conducting the cleaning. The cleaning will be carried out in accordance with the draft Cleaning Procedures. We are currently sourcing a cleaning contractor to undertake this work.

Cleaning Procedures Project

A working group, comprising selected members of the Steering Committee have almost finalised a Cleaning Procedures document. The draft document will be initially used for the trial cleaning of the first batch of homes across Esperance, identified from the 21 homes sampled earlier this year. Finetuning of the document is expected prior to the wider cleaning of premises across the townsite. Once finalised, these procedures will become the operational document for the cleaning contractors.

Sampling Protocol Project

Negotiations are nearing completion in respect to awarding of the tender to develop sampling procedures and protocols. Detailed sampling is a critical precursor to allow the overall townsite cleanup project to move forward in a structured and informed manner.



Cleanup Standards for Roof Spaces, Ceiling Voids and Roof Surfaces

Sampling work to establish background or benchmark levels of lead and nickel in Esperance and Albany is well under way. All available premises in Esperance would have been sampled by 24th July 2009 and sampling of Albany homes will commence in the following week. Data collected from the sampling will be used to develop acceptable Cleaning Guidelines for roof spaces, ceiling voids and roof surfaces in Esperance.

Laboratory analysis of samples

Under the Chemistry Centre (WA) Act 2007, I am pleased to announce that the ECRP can engage the ChemCentre exclusively for the laboratory analysis of collected sample material, without the requirement to go to open competitive tender for this work. This will considerably expedite procurement timeframes and provide continuity with previous work undertaken by the ChemCentre in Esperance.

Communications Plan

Feedback has been received from Steering Committee members on the draft Communications Plan and the amended document will be presented to the next Steering Committee meeting for endorsement.

OnCue Website

Enhancements are being made to the OnCue website to make it more intuitive and user friendly. As the project moves forward, there will be additional information that will be made available and the layout of the site needs to ensure that the information provided is useful and easily located.

Office administration

I am pleased to announce that Matthew Devenish has commenced with the ECRP as the Project Manager, Esperance Cleanup. Matthew brings a wealth of contract and project management experience to the team and will play a crucial role as the project unfolds.

I am also pleased to advise that Kieron Smith, an Environmental Scientist who has been with the ECRP on a short term contract, has now been offered a 12 month full time contract as the Project Manager, Evaluation and Monitoring.

The Esperance based ECRP team comprises:

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