



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Project snapshot

The ECRP has identified a probable cut-off line or limiting boundary to the north west of the town beyond which premises were not affected by Magellan lead contamination from rail movements or ship loading events at the port. The proposed boundary is based on comprehensive analysis of results from the detailed sampling program, which includes isotopic or “fingerprint” testing of individual samples.

Key project outcomes

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

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number of premises sampled	33	29	1950
Total number of samples sent to ChemCentre for testing	2626	2963	88866
Total number of premises analysed against the ECRP guidelines	26	41	1647
Total number of premises requiring some form of cleaning	20	34	1540
Total number of premises where cleaning has been completed	102	91	819

Health, safety and environment

The ECRP has continued to provide service to the community in a safe and systematic manner.

The ECRP OHSE Committee met on 25 May 2011. A significant outcome of this meeting was the adoption by the OHSE Committee of a strategic planning process for the large and unusual cleaning jobs that the ECRP have encountered in recent months. As the cleaning tends to move away from residential areas into the commercial district of Esperance, there are new health, safety and environmental challenges such as significantly larger premises and multiple crews working together, restrictions in gaining access to premises during business hours, plus the added health and safety controls that are required when working in and around busy public access areas. The strategic plan requires participation and consultation by all stakeholders to enable efficient planning, risk identification and risk control to be implemented prior to commencement of such works.

An “OHS for Supervisors” course was recently held in Esperance and was attended by 23 ECRP personnel. The one day course delivered important OHS information and training in relevant issues such as legislative “duty of care” responsibilities of employers and employees, investigation of incidents and preparation and planning of job tasks to better recognise and control hazards.

Sampling and analysis

The general sampling of residential homes and commercial premises continues to wind down now that sampling is practically completed in all 11 stages (see map on page 4).

Indicative sampling in the outer stages is indicating that many of these premises have not been affected by ship loading events at the port or rail movements. The ECRP has been able



to identify a probable cut-off line or limiting boundary to the north west of the town beyond which premises were not affected by Magellan lead contamination from rail movements or ship loading events at the port. The boundary is based on comprehensive analysis of a range of data sets, including isotopic or “fingerprint” testing of individual samples.

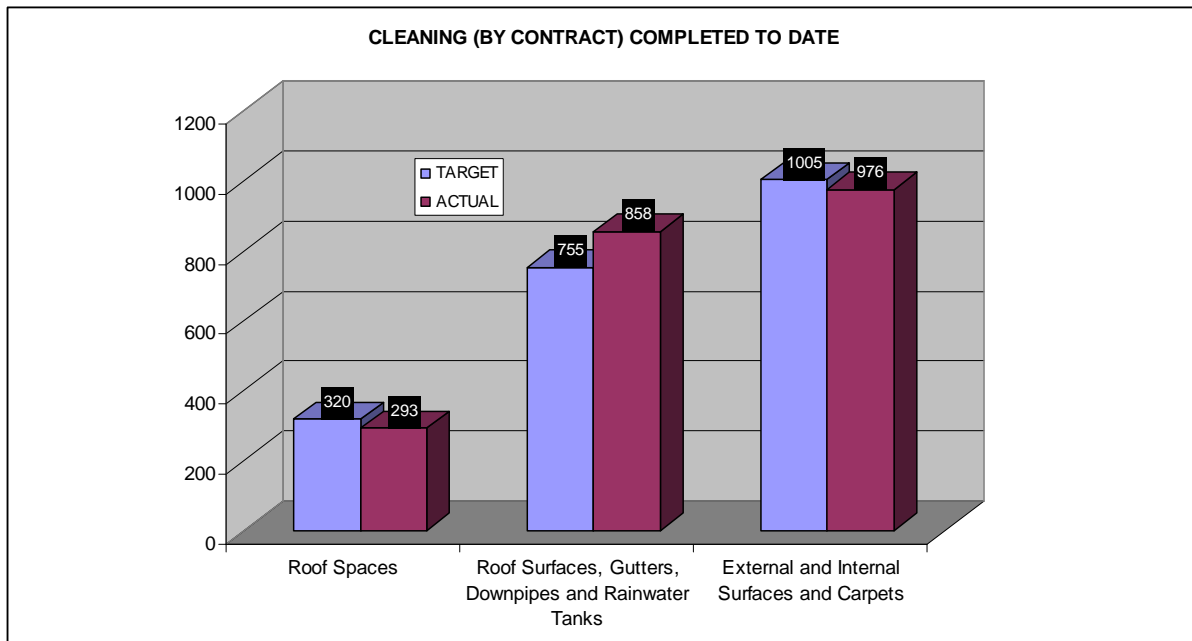
Improvements continue to be made in carpet bulk dust sampling and analysis techniques. This is a problematic area for the ECRP because technical limitations in field testing with the Niton XRF can mean that the carpet might appear to be clean during field testing, but traces of lead or nickel are subsequently showing up in the laboratory testing. The ECRP has acknowledged the inconvenience and disruption this causes our clients, especially if we need to return to the premises to undertake further cleaning some weeks later. Two key improvements made to bulk dust sampling with the Niton XRF include:

- Increasing the energy and penetration of x-rays into the sample by using lighter grade plastic sample bags, which significantly improves the sensitivity of the instrument; and
- Applying a specific error margin to each Niton result to reduce the likelihood of any random errors contributing to a false assessment by the sampling team.

The ECRP is also in the process of conducting a thorough gap analysis to ensure that all property owners in each stage have been contacted and provided with the opportunity to have their property sampled. A recent newspaper advertisement in the Esperance and Kalgoorlie papers provided local and absentee property owners with a further opportunity to contact the ECRP and request sampling of their home or business premise.

Cleaning

The cleaning contractors continued to perform well against their monthly cleaning targets. The overall performance of each contract to date is summarised in the graph below:



The slight drop in roof space cleaning and external, internal and carpet cleaning is due to the significant and sustained decline in the number of premises requiring cleaning in the outer



stages (as reported in the previous project update). The cleaning targets have now been revised to reflect the most recent sampling and analysis data and are listed below:

REVISED CLEANING TARGETS (BY CONTRACT)	ORIGINAL TARGET	REVISED TARGET	REDUCTION
Roof spaces and replacement of insulation	445	400	10%
Roof surfaces, gutters, downpipes and rainwater tanks	1250	950	24%
External and internal surfaces and carpets	1875	1475	21%

A summary of cleaning by each contract when measured against the revised cleaning targets is provided below:

NUMBER OF PREMISES CLEANED (BY CONTRACT)	APR	MAY	TOTAL	% COMPLETE
Roof spaces and replacement of insulation	19	6	293	73%
Roof surfaces, gutters, downpipes and rainwater tanks	143	88	858	90%
External and internal surfaces and carpets	90	102	976	66%

To date, there are 819 premises where all cleaning has been completed, which includes those premises where re-cleaning may have been required. There are a further 158 premises where some cleaning has been conducted (such as gutters) but further cleaning (such as carpets) is still scheduled for completion.

Since the cleaning of roof surfaces, gutters, downpipes and rainwater tanks is around 90 per cent complete, the contractor has accordingly demobilised many of its cleaning crews. Cleaning of external and internal surfaces and carpets, however, will remain at full capacity as this is the most time consuming component of the cleaning program and has the most significant influence on the end date of the project.

Waste disposal

The disposal of ECRP contaminated waste to Red Hill Waste Management Facility in Perth continues and now totals 12 forty-foot containers.

Waste soil collected during the removal of contaminated soil (generally from beneath open downpipes) has now been analysed for leachable contamination and the results indicate a Waste Class 3 classification. Discussions are now progressing with Red Hill Waste Management Facility to request an acceptance for ECRP soil waste.

Sentinel monitoring

The second round of sentinel monitoring is now complete (February-April 2011). All dishes and bottles from the nine selected monitoring sites have been forwarded to ChemCentre for analysis. Both rounds of sentinel data will be analysed by the ECRP Sentinel Monitoring Sub-Committee in the coming weeks. The process of regular monitoring and review will assist to identify if there are any indicators for the remobilisation of lead or nickel within the Esperance town site.

Project timeframes

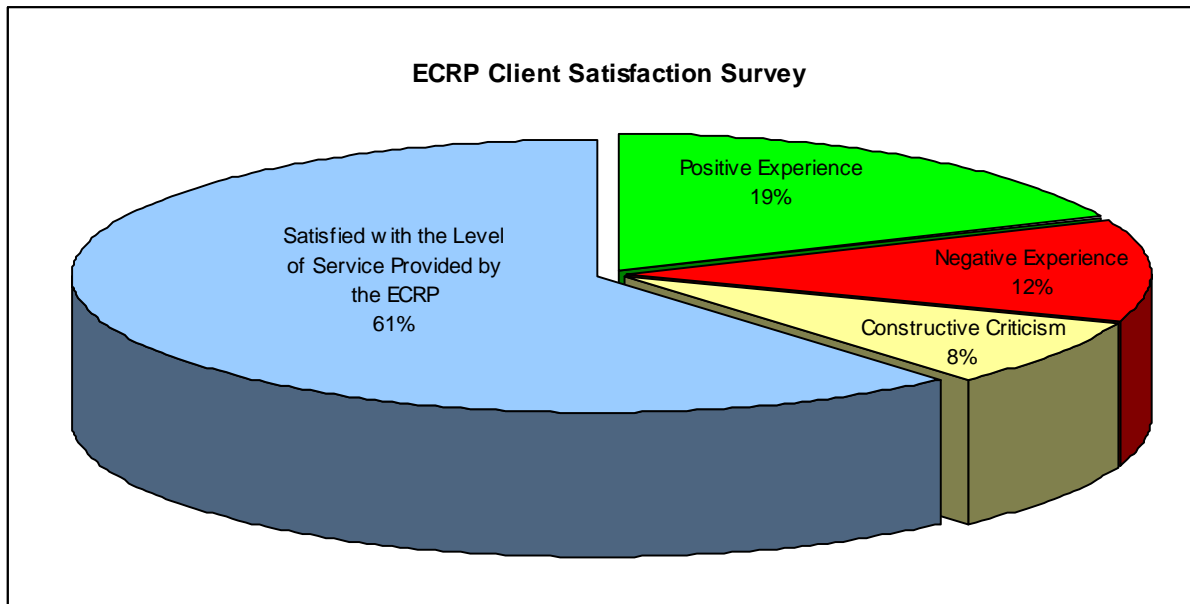
The detailed sampling phase of the project is practically completed. The ECRP is now conducting a comprehensive program to contact any owners of premises within the detailed sampling stages who have not yet responded to the initial sampling request. So far, this program has only identified a small number of premises remaining to be sampled (less than



10 per cent of all premises). Provided that all remaining sampling is complete by August 2011, the end date of the project will be determined by the end date of cleaning for external and internal surfaces and carpets. It is anticipated that all cleaning will be completed by December 2011.

Community feedback

The ECRP issues a client satisfaction survey to each client at the conclusion of sampling (if no cleaning was required or cleaning was declined) or cleaning (if cleaning was required). Responses are sought on a range of issues including the client's impressions of the staff conducting the work, clarity of the results and suggestions for improvement. To date, owners and occupiers at 584 premises have been survey and 28 per cent of those clients have responded. The chart below summarises all responses received to date. The responses "Satisfied", "Positive Experience" and "Constructive Criticism" are considered by the ECRP to represent a successful outcome and together indicate that the overall client satisfaction rating is approximately 88 per cent of respondents.



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

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Map showing ECRP Project Stages