



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Issue 13

Project snapshot

In preparation for the award of the major cleaning contracts, the ECRP team has identified over 200 premises ready for cleaning. Each one of those premises has now been sampled and analysed, and individual cleaning work plans have been prepared for each property.

Sampling and analysis

Letters seeking consent to sample have now been sent to owners and occupiers in Stage Five (see map on page 3) and sampling in that area is now underway. In late May 2010, the sampling program will move into Stage Six. The key outcomes to date are as follows:

	<u>To end of April</u>
Total number of premises sampled	580
Total number of samples sent to ChemCentre for testing:	16,828
Total number of premises analysed	502

Over 90 per cent of premises sampled to date require some degree of internal or external surface cleaning. Approximately 50 per cent of all premises sampled require roof space cleaning and up to 65 per cent require gutter, roof surface or water tank cleaning. These numbers, however, are dropping rapidly with the distance away from the port.

Currently we have a team of 12 samplers and two supervisors, with the last intake of samplers being in early April. This has resulted in a strong sampling team and the samplers have been working hard to improve the sampling process and implement recommendations from the data analysts, which improve the workflow between the sampling and analysis phases. The outcome has been an overall improvement in the whole process, reducing the time between sampling and when results become available to residents.

Cleaning

Tender submissions for the major cleaning contracts have now been reviewed by the ECRP assessment panel and recommendations for the preferred contractors have been approved by the Department of Transport's tenders committee. Award of the contracts is still expected before the end of May 2010. This will allow adequate time for the successful tenderers to prepare for commencement of cleaning work across the townsite in June/July 2010. In preparation for the start of cleaning, the ECRP team has identified a minimum amount of work expected for each of the cleaning contracts.

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| 1. Roof surfaces (including gutters and rainwater tanks) | 150 premises |
| 2. Roof spaces (including replacement of insulation) | 80 premises |
| 3. Internal/external cleaning | 200 premises |

It is anticipated that the amount of work will continue to grow as the sampling program continues.



Data management

The ECRP database has been successfully installed in Esperance and is undergoing rigorous testing by the ECRP team. Over 6000 names and addresses from the Esperance Shire database have been merged into the program and can now be matched to the results of the sampling program as they become available.

Methodology and process audit

The ECRP have issued a request for quotation for a consultant to undertake a methodology and process audit of the sampling and cleaning components of the project. The proposed audit is intended to provide another level of confidence to Government and the community that the adopted ECRP methodologies will deliver a successful outcome to the project, by meeting the required objectives. The audit findings will be used to validate or modify the current methodologies and processes to ensure these required project objectives can be met. The audit is not intended to be purely of an administrative nature. The intention is for a technical audit of the suitability or otherwise of the established ECRP methodologies and processes that have been developed and are being used by the project team to ensure a successful cleanup of the Esperance townsite.

Asbestos roofs

A micro-vac surface sampling vacuum kit has been purchased and an arrangement with the ChemCentre to supply and analyse surface sample filters is in place. Training of sampling staff in the use of the micro-vac has commenced and results of nickel and lead levels on asbestos roofs will now become available to the project. The cleaning of asbestos roofs to remove any lead residues is not a viable, practical or safe option. The Department of Health has advised that to disturb or attempt to clean the asbestos roof surfaces would create a greater health risk than might be posed by any lead residues that might be present. The Minister for Transport has therefore agreed to the following recommendations in respect to asbestos roofs.

- That owners of homes in Esperance with asbestos roofs be offered a contribution to the costs of replacement provided that:
 - the asbestos roof surface is found to exceed the cleanup guideline for lead, and
 - the roof replacement is carried out before June 2011.
- The contribution offered to home owners be determined as the equivalent cost of cleaning a roof of the same surface area.

Project presentations – Esperance Rotary Club

There has been a request from the Esperance Rotary Club to provide an overview presentation on the overall project, including the current status and planned future activities. The Project Director will provide this presentation at a forthcoming club meeting.

Staff matters

Kieron Smith will be leaving the project on 21 May 2010 after accepting a position with Alinta as Environmental Specialist at the Northern Flinders and Playford Power Station at Port Augusta. Kieron has been an extremely valued member of the team and has been instrumental in establishing the framework and setting the direction in relation to the sampling component of the project. We wish Kieron all the very best in his future endeavours and sincerely thank him for his efforts on the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project. A replacement for Kieron is currently being sought.



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Map showing project stages

