



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project Update

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Project snapshot

After an initial period of mobilisation and logistical issues, cleaning is now progressing well under the three major cleaning contracts. The contract cleaning workforce has grown to 39 but with cleaning expected to be completed by June 2011, this number will continue to grow over the coming months.

Key project outcomes

The key project outcomes to date are as follows:

	<u>To end of August</u>
Total number of premises sampled	1230
Total number of samples sent to ChemCentre for testing	47,258
Total number of premises analysed against the ECRP guidelines	925
Total number of premises identified as requiring some form of cleaning	868
Total number of premises where cleaning has been completed	133

Health, safety and environment

All contract staff, including samplers and cleaners, continued to work safely under close supervision by the ECRP and there are no major incidents or injuries to report.

In particular, it has now been approximately 550 days since the first labour hire staff were recruited to commence sampling under the ECRP. During this time not a single lost time injury has occurred. This is an achievement of which the entire ECRP team is very proud and is testament to our project's key objective of putting safety first at all times.

A regular safety meeting occurs on the first Wednesday of each month. Attending these meetings are representatives from the ECRP project team, contract cleaning companies and labour hire providers. The aim of this meeting is to provide open communication of all safety issues between all parties engaged in the ECRP. Positive outcomes so far have been:

- An identification of the requirement for additional staff to be trained in working at heights. This training has been conducted.
- Implementation of a generic hazard alert and near miss report for all contactors and employees of the ECRP.
- The implementation of an information flow between safety meetings, where all contractors and the ECRP project team are forwarded all near miss and incident reports.

Project timeframes

Based on the most recent results of sampling in Stages 7 and 8, and the capacity of the cleaning contractors to further ramp up to meet demand, it is now anticipated that cleaning will continue into the first half of next year. Cleaning should be completed by June 2011.



Sampling

Sampling is almost complete in Stage 8 while Stage 9 has just commenced (see the map of stages on page 4). The project currently engages approximately 20 sampling personnel. The volume of samples sent to the ChemCentre has recently increased due to the requirement for cleaning validation samples.

Further training and certification was recently rolled out to the sampling team to allow sampling at heights. Elevated work platforms are now being used for any sampling beyond the reach of a ladder.

Sampling teams are now taking additional samples underneath open downpipes at premises where roof surface, gutter, or downpipe cleaning is required. The reason for this is to establish if any lead or nickel residues have transferred from the gutters to the ground level since the original sampling was conducted.

Sampling teams are now also investigating painted surfaces (using the hand held X-ray field analyser) where surface cleaning has occurred but the validation samples are showing results that still exceed the guidelines for lead. The team has identified that the cause of these failures is not the cleaning but lead-based contaminants found in everyday items such as paint and fabricated metals transferring to the sample swabs. We are now able to pass this information on to the home owner or occupier in the cleaning report.

Data analysis

As the sampling moves further away from the port and into Stages 8 and 9, the results are showing a rapid drop-off in cleaning requirements for roof surfaces and roof spaces. Although there is still a high percentage of premises that require some form of internal and external cleaning, the number of hours of cleaning required at each property is dropping off. Gutters are emerging as an area where contamination has seemingly accumulated, even in some of the outer stages, and a high percentage of those are above the guideline and will require cleaning.

Cleaning

All three cleaning contracts worked close to full capacity during August, with work being conducted across a total of 81 premises. All of those premises had some level of internal and external surface or carpet cleaning conducted.

Cleaning carpets to the ECRP guidelines continues to be problematic but has created an opportunity for the sampling teams to work more closely with the cleaning teams. On-site sampling is conducted using the hand held X-ray field analyser to immediately indicate to the cleaners how effective the cleaning is. This method helps reduce the likelihood of returning to the premises to conduct re-cleaning at a later date.

Roof space cleaning ramped up considerably with the mobilisation of a second vacuum truck. A total of 25 roof spaces, which includes the replacement of insulation where required, were cleaned during August.

Although roof surface cleaning is now required at only 15 per cent of all premises analysed against the guidelines, gutter cleaning continues to remain high. A total of 42 premises were cleaned during August under the roof surface, gutters and rainwater tanks contract.



Waste disposal

The ECRP waste sampling and disposal facility located at Wylie Bay Refuse Site is now being fully utilised by the sampling and cleaning contractors. The ChemCentre recently conducted leach testing on the first batch of waste and, based on those results, the project has determined the waste to fall within Class 3. The first container has been filled with waste, classified and now awaits transfer to Red Hill Waste Facility in Perth.

ECRP supervisors visit to ChemCentre

Data analysis supervisor Natasha Norris and sampling supervisor Danny Plecas will be visiting the ChemCentre on Friday 17 September to gain a better understanding of the Perth based sample testing operations. This will allow them to seek opportunities to further enhance and streamline the vital interface between ECRP and the ChemCentre.

Project presentations

Visit by Minister Simon O'Brien

Transport Minister Simon O'Brien visited Esperance on Friday 27 August and was provided with a project briefing and update by the ECRP director. The Minister was particularly interested in the cleaning process and undertook a site visit to a house that was having gutters and downpipes cleaned. The Minister was particularly appreciative of the detailed briefing and expressed that he was very happy with the progress being made and the comprehensive way in which the task is being undertaken.

Presentation to Esperance Bay Rotary

The ECRP director provided a presentation to Esperance Rotary on Thursday evening 26 August. This was extremely well received and was followed by many questions and much discussion.



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Map showing Project Stages

