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**TITLE: Response to Esperance Express on Esperance cleanup**

On Tuesday, 6 October 2009 the following enquiry was received from deputy editor of the Esperance Express Julia Kogan.

"As per our conversation yesterday I wanted to get some info re clean up of Esperance. Are there any more news on that front? How many people are directly involved with the clean up?"

The following response was provided on Wednesday, 8 October 2009.

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Project director Wayne Winchester said there were four permanent employees based in Esperance working on the cleanup, and the team engaged contractors and consultants as needed.

"We currently have three local contractors working on the sampling stage and we have just awarded a contract to a local company for the actual cleaning," Mr Winchester said.

He said it was up to the cleaning contractor to decide how many staff they would employ to get the job done under the terms of the contract.

Mr Winchester said that in the meantime detailed sampling for stage one of the cleanup was underway.

"Sampling of each property takes about three hours to complete. The samples are then sent to ChemCentre in Perth for analysis and results are measured against established guidelines to determine which houses need cleaning and the extent of cleaning required. This generally takes two to three weeks," Mr Winchester said.

He said residents were being kept informed of the process and would be advised of any cleaning requirements as test results became available.

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RELEASED 8 OCTOBER 2009