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Tuesday 13 July 2010

**TITLE: Response to enquiry from the Esperance Express**

On Wednesday 7 July 2010 the following was provided to Cheryl Long from the Esperance Express.

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The cleaning component of the Esperance cleanup project began last week.

Project director Wayne Winchester said contracts for the major cleaning projects had been awarded to PRC Building Services Pty Ltd and Bay of Isles Mini Excavators Pty Ltd.

He said there were three separate components to the cleaning work.

“Roof surfaces, gutters and rainwater tanks will be cleaned by Bay of Isles Mini Excavators, and internal and external cleaning as well as roof spaces - including replacement of insulation where required - will be the responsibility of PRC Building Services,” Mr Winchester said.

He said it was anticipated that the majority of the required cleaning would be completed before the end of the year.

To the end of June, 912 premises had been sampled and 32,975 samples had been sent to the ChemCentre for testing.

“We anticipate that about 1,800 premises fall into an area identified where contamination was likely to have occurred,” Mr Winchester said.

“Over 540 premises have been identified for cleaning so far, with each having been sampled and analysed and an individual cleaning work plan prepared. Additional premises will require cleaning as more results are analysed.”

“Sampling in areas further away from the port has shown the level of cleaning required is decreasing rapidly.”

Mr Winchester praised the positive involvement of the local community in the cleanup project, particularly those living in the affected area and the community representatives on the project steering committee.

“People understand that, although it has taken some time to get to where we are at the moment, it has been necessary to ensure a systematic and thorough cleanup of the townsite by the project team,” Mr Winchester said.

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