

## ESPERANCE CLEANUP and RECOVERY PROJECT

### MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

8 FEBRUARY 2009, ESPERANCE

#### In attendance

Mr. Paul Clifton	Shire of Esperance
Mrs. Michelle Crisp	Locals for Esperance Development [LED]
Dr. Charles Douglas	Department of Health (DOH)
Mr. John Fischer	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
Mr. Lindsay Gillam	Department of Health (DOH)
Ms Mirella Goetzmann	Department of Health (DOH)
Mr. Richard Grant	Esperance Port Authority
Mr. Michael Jackson	Co-ordinator, Esperance Community Consultations
Mr. Rod Hilton	Shire of Esperance
Prof. Alison Jones	University of Newcastle
Ms. Pam Norris	Locals for Esperance Development [LED]
Dr. John Ottaway	ECRP Project Director
Mr. Adam Rayner	Esperance Compliance Officer [DEC]
Mr. Peter Skitmore	Dept. Environment and Conservation [DEC]
Mr. Marcus Tromp	Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Apologies:	
Ms Sharon Clark	Landcorp

Mr. Marcus Tromp was welcomed as a member of the Steering Committee.

#### 1. Actions from Previous meeting 11 December 2008:

- i. Request Marcus Tromp, CEO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to be a member of the Steering Committee.  
This action has been completed.
- ii. Project Director to follow through with discussions with US EPA, and NSW and SA governments regarding the cleanups of Newcastle and Port Pirie.  
This had been actioned in part. The Project Director had emailed members to advise them of his discussions accordingly to date. Further communications will be followed up as time permits.
- iii. DOH to consult with the Chemistry Centre regarding the development of appropriate cleanup standards.  
This matter is dealt with under item 3.
- iv. DOH will consider the development of guidance which can be provided to tradespeople.  
Members noted that DOH has this matter under consideration.
- v. DOH to provide guidance on acceptable clean-up levels for external paved and non-paved surfaces  
This matter is dealt with under item 3.
- vi. Michelle Crisp to provide the LED Survey of Lead in Esperance Homes to members.  
Members noted that Ms Crisp is actioning this matter and will provide the report of the LED Survey accordingly.

- vii. Michael Jackson to amend Draft Framework Plan  
Members noted that this action is ongoing “work in progress”.
- viii. Project Director to contact New South Wales and SA Governments and US EPA regarding previously used clean-up standards for lead and nickel for internal and external applications.  
This information had been requested by the Project Director but at the time of the meeting details of the standards applied in those jurisdictions have not been provided.
- ix. Michael Jackson to seek advice from Graham Jacobs on response from Water Corporation.  
Members noted that Dr Jacobs had advised that the feasibility report from the Water Corporation would be provided to him by the end of February 2009.
- x. Shire of Esperance, in consultation with DEC to identify a temporary storage area for any removed materials.  
Members considered that this matter could be addressed at a later stage when and if necessary.
- xi. DOH to consider provision of its GPS data management system to the Project Director as part of the data management system for the cleanup project.  
Members noted that DOH will provide details of the system used by DOH in the rain water tank survey and will work with the Project Director to ensure that GPS co-ordinates are obtained as part of the sampling program.  
Members agreed, [subject to agreement by DOH] that all sampling data should, if possible, be entered with the GPS coordinates using the DOH system.
- xii. That a community newsletter should be prepared to provide details of the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project.  
Members endorsed the need for this action and noted that it remains to be done.

## **2. Progress Report by Project Manager**

Members noted progress report by Dr John Ottaway, Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project [ECRP] Director in which he outlined:

- Details of the progress in setting up the Esperance Office [Unit 2B, 113 Dempster Street, Esperance].
- Details of staffing issues under consideration. Interviews have been held for a Project Assistant (Officer Manager). A further position of Project Manager is being progressed.
- Comment on the proposed visit by US EPA officer Mark Sprenger.
- The high priority for the intensive sampling of 15 homes and 3 previously cleaned
- The need to establish Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee.

## **3. Standards of Cleanup**

Members noted and discussed the Cleanup Standards as listed in the draft Framework Plan.

Members considered the proposed Cleanup Standards as follows:

- Hard surfaces inside homes, schools and tourist accommodation – lead concentration not to exceed 0.04µg/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Outside of homes and other premises in hard stand areas such as patios - removal of visible dusts containing lead and nickel
- Garages and other buildings - removal of visible dusts containing lead and nickel
- Roof spaces – removal of visible dusts containing lead and nickel.
- Rain Water Tanks- Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
- Hard surfaces – not detected with a Niton instrument having a limit of detection of 60 mg/kg.
- Soils - The soil investigation levels for lead and nickel – lead 300mg/kg and nickel 600mg/kg respectively.

Members considered that it was necessary to have standards of cleanup for soils that took into consideration:

- Growing vegetables, especially root vegetables, in residential soils. It was therefore necessary to establish the potential for uptake of lead from soils into plants. [DOH had previously provided some advice on this aspect]
- The potential for lead in soils to be ‘walked into’ homes.
- The likelihood for lead residues to be located in the surface layers of the soil profile.

DOH agreed to investigate these issues and provide advice to the Steering Committee on recommended standards of cleanup for residential soils.

Members also agreed that it was necessary to establish cleanup standards for carpets and other soft furnishings. DOH was requested to provide advice on this matter.

**Action: DOH to provide advice on:**

- a. **cleanup standards for soils in Esperance residential settings, and,**
  - b. **cleanup standards for soft furnishings such as carpets etc.**
3. **Intensive Trial Sampling of Homes and Residential Properties**

**Members noted and discussed:**

- That this had a high priority for action.
- That the Esperance Port Authority had established a system for notification, registration and recording of homes and rain water tanks for cleaning. The EsPA had also ensured that those people who had registered were kept informed on the status of the cleaning schedule. Details of this system had been provided to the ECRP Project Director.
- EsPA advised that the average cost to clean a home to remove lead contamination was about \$3,500 per home. The process took, on average, about 2 to 3 days to complete. However, it was recognised that this cleaning process and cost did not include cleaning of roof spaces, exterior grounds cleanup, or replacement of ceiling insulation, carpets and other soft furnishings etc.

- That homes of children with elevated blood lead levels had been sampled following the initial lead contamination. Data on this sampling would be provided by DOH to the ECRP Project Director.
- A proposal to sample 10 homes along 2 transects of about 2 km from the centroid at Berth 2 through West Beach and Sinclair, each comprising 5 homes both old and new homes. As agreed at the last meeting a further 3 homes that had previously been cleaned, would also be sampled.
- It was desirable in addition to have a third transect of a further 5 homes from the Berth 2 centroid in a north westerly direction towards Nulsen. In total, this would be 15 homes and in addition 3 homes which had previously been cleaned.
- An ad hoc Working Group was established to plan and manage this trial sampling project. The members of the Working Group were from DOH, Shire of Esperance, a Community member and the ECRP Project Director. The task would involve identifying homes for sampling and the taking of samples.
- DOH advised that Peter McCafferty from the Chemistry Centre was willing to assist in the actual sampling program.
- The need to provide advance notification to householders and to provide details of how the samples would be taken.
- The need to adhere to occupational health and safety protocols especially in sampling dusts from roof voids and ceiling spaces.

**Action: Ad hoc Working Group [DOH, Shire, Community member and ECRP Project Director plus Chemistry Centre] to conduct a trial sampling project of 15 homes along 3 transects plus 3 homes which had previously been cleaned.. Project Director to prepare advice to Householders. Sampling Team to ensure that OH& S requirements are addressed.**

#### **4. Proposed Visit by Mark Springer US EPA**

##### **Members noted:**

- The CV for Mark Dennis Sprenger, Environmental Scientist, US Environmental Protection Agency.
- Dr Sprenger would potentially provide an independent assessment of the ECRP and would be able to draw from the experience of the US EPA.
- Some members questioned if Dr Sprenger had been personally involved in removing lead contamination from homes.
- That it was also important not to lose the Australian context and to maintain contact with South Australian and NSW health authorities.
- That it would be preferable to establish early contact with Dr Sprenger, to provide information, protocols etc and data on the trial sampling project and to bring him to Esperance when the project is more advanced.

**Action: Project Director to maintain contact with SA and NSW health authorities and Dr Sprenger, US EPA.**

**Dr Sprenger to be invited to visit Esperance when the project is further advanced.**

## **5. Table of Actions**

### **Members noted:**

- A Briefing Note prepared by the Project Director setting out in Table form, for consideration, a list of proposed future actions, the timeframe and the person responsible.
- That this document will be refined and converted into a Gantt Chart.
- John Ottaway raised the need for a sentinel monitoring system to assess the baseline and potential re mobilisation of lead and nickel around the townsite before cleanups start.
- In order for the Steering Committee to assess the potential for re-contamination, it was necessary for the Steering Committee to maintain under continuing review a suite of ongoing environmental monitoring programs including:
  - The vegetation testing surveys which examined lead and nickel levels in old leaves, new leaves and flowers. This is a 5 year survey with sampling occurring in March 2008, March 2009 etc.
  - The Conservation Council bird feather studies.
  - Ongoing surveillance of lead and nickel levels in sentinel rainwater tanks.
  - The ongoing environmental monitoring program of the EsPA.
- That the Chemistry Centre had been engaged to develop a prescribed method for the determination of the annualised guideline for nickel. It had been proposed to establish three additional HiVols located in the community to measure the emissions at those points. Members noted this initiative.

## **6. Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee**

### **Members noted:**

- That the Terms of Reference need to be developed and endorsed by the Minister.
- Pam Norris had prepared Draft Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and circulated this to members
- John Fischer offered to take responsibility for this task using Ms Norris' draft as a basis.

**Action: John Fischer in consultation with Steering Committee members to prepare Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and seek endorsement of these, from the Minister for Transport.**

## **7. Fact Sheets and Communication with the Community**

### **Members noted:**

- That a Fact Sheet on the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project had been prepared by DPI for the Public Forum and Open Day.
- A more detailed Fact Sheet is required.

- Further newsletters and Cleanup Project Updates on the process of cleaning etc will be required.

Members commented that fact sheets and newsletters should be circulated to members of the Steering Committee for comment and approval before they are released.

**Action: Michael Jackson to revise the Fact Sheet and refer to members for comment.**

## **8. Other Issues**

### **i. Minutes of meetings:**

Members agreed that a dedicated person should be responsible for taking the minutes at the Steering Committee meetings. That such a person should have an understanding of the technical issues. It was suggested that the ECRP Project Assistant (Office Manager), when appointed, should be responsible for this task.

**Action: Project Director to have the Project Assistant (Office Manager), when appointed, to take minutes of Steering Committee meetings.**

### **ii. Potential Recontamination by Nickel Emissions**

LED members previously expressed concern of the potential for recontamination of the townsite, including homes, due to nickel emissions from port operations. They requested that this be registered in the report of the previous meeting.

ECRP Director again stated that the level of recontamination by nickel and by lead, if any, and from any and all sources, must be properly assessed and understood before actual cleanup begins. Otherwise there is the real prospect of having cleaned premises recontaminated, which would be completely unacceptable.

### **iii. Further representation of the Esperance Community on the Steering Committee**

Members discussed whether there should be a wider representation of the Esperance community on the Steering Committee. It was noted that the Project Director had been approached by several people on this issue.

**Action: Marcus Tromp and LED members to discuss and make recommendations on other suitable Esperance community persons as members of the Steering Committee.**

### **iv. Posting Report of Steering Committee meeting on Website**

Members agreed that the report of Steering Committee meetings, [when approved by Members], should be posted on a website so that Esperance residents could access this information. Members noted that a new dedicated website is being established by DPI to provide information on the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project. It was suggested that links be established from that website to other sites frequently used by Esperance residents to access information such as the Esperance Shire website.

**Action: Steering Committee report, [when approved by Members] to be posted on the website being set up by DPI for the Cleanup Project with links to other sites.**

**v. Involvement of Professor Alison Jones**

Members acknowledged the attendance of Professor Alison Jones at the Public Forum, Open Day and at the Steering Committee meeting. Professor Jones indicated a willingness to continue to her involvement with the Steering Committee.

**9. Closure of the meeting.**

The meeting concluded at 5 pm

**ACTION LIST**  
**Esperance Clean Up Project**  
**Steering Committee**  
**Updated 12 February 2009**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Completion Notes</b>
11 December 2008	1	Pam Norris to provide contact details to Michael Jackson	Request Marcus Tromp CEO Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be a member of the Steering Committee	8 February 2009	Marcus Tromp attended Steering Committee 8 February
11 December 2008	2	John Ottaway	Project Manager to follow through with discussions with USEPA, and NSW and SA governments regarding the cleanups of Broken Hill, Newcastle and Port Pirie.	8 February 2009	This had been actioned in part. The Program Director had emailed members to advise them of his discussions accordingly to date.
11 December 2008	3	Lindsay Gillam	DOH to consult with the Chemistry Centre regarding the development of appropriate cleanup standards.		
11 December 2008	4	Lindsay Gillam	DOH will consider the development of guidance which can be provided to trades people.		8 February. Members noted that DOH has this matter under consideration.
11 December 2008	5	Lindsay Gillam	DOH to provide guidance on acceptable cleanup levels for external paved and non-paved surfaces.		
11 December 2008	6	Michelle Crisp	Michelle Crisp to provide the LED Survey of Lead in Esperance Homes to DEC.		8 February. Members noted that Ms Crisp is actioning this matter and will provide the report of the LED Survey accordingly.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Completion Notes</b>
11 December 2008	7	Michael Jackson	Michael Jackson to amend Draft Framework Plan.	8 February 2009	8 February. Members noted that this will be an ongoing item.
11 December 2008	8	John Ottaway	Project Manager to contact New South Wales and South Australia Governments and USEPA regarding previously used cleanup standards for lead and nickel for internal and external application.		8 February. This information had been requested by the Project Director but at the time of the meeting details of the standards applied in those jurisdictions had not been provided.
11 December 2008	9	Michael Jackson	Michael Jackson to seek advice from Graham Jacobs on response from Water Corporation.	8 February 2009	8 February. Members noted that Dr Jacobs had advised that the feasibility report from the Water Corporation would be provided to him by the end of February 2009.
11 December 2008	10	Paul Clifton	Shire of Esperance, in consultation with DEC to identify a temporary storage area for any removed materials.		8 February. Members considered that this matter could be addressed at a later stage when and if necessary.
11 December 2008	11	Lindsay Gillam	DOH to consider provision of its GPS data management system to the Project Director as part of the data management system for the cleanup and recovery program.	8 February 2009	Members noted that DOH will provide details of the system used by DOH in the rain water tank survey and will work with the Project Director to ensure that GPS co-ordinates are obtained as part of the sampling program. Member agreed [subject to agreement by DOH] that all sampling data should, if possible, be entered with the GPS co-ordinates using the DOH system.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Completion Notes</b>
11 December 2008	12	John Ottaway	That a community newsletter should be prepared to provide details of on the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project.		Members endorsed the need for this action and noted that it remains to be done.
8 February 2009	13	Lindsay Gillam	DOH to provide advice on clean-up standards for soils in Esperance residential settings and clean-up standards for soft furnishings such as carpets etc.		
8 February 2009	14	John Ottaway, Lindsay Gillam, Peter McCafferty, Paul Clifton & Pam Norris	Ad hoc Working Group (DOH, Shire Community member and ECRP Project Director plus Chemistry Centre) to conduct trial sampling project of 15 homes along 3 transects plus 3 homes which had previously been cleaned. Project Director to prepare advice to Householders.		
8 February 2009	15	John Ottaway	Project Director to maintain contact with SA and NSW health authorities and Dr Sprenger, US EPA.		
8 February 2009	16	John Ottaway	Dr Sprenger to be invited to visit Esperance when the project is further advanced.		
8 February 2009	17	John Fischer	John Fischer in consultation with Steering Committee Members, to prepare Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and seek endorsement of these from the Minister for Transport.		

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Completion Notes</b>
8 February 2009	18	Michael Jackson	Michael Jackson to revise the Fact Sheet and refer to Members for comment and approval.		
8 February 2009	19	John Ottaway	Project Director to request Project Assistant (Office Manager), when appointed, to take minutes of Steering Committee meetings.		
8 February 2009	20	Marcus Tromp, Pam Norris	Marcus Tromp and LED members to discuss and make recommendations on other suitable community persons as members of the Steering Committee.		
8 February 2009	21	John Fischer	Steering Committee reports [once approved by Steering Committee Members] to be posted on the website being set up by DPI for the Cleanup and Recovery Project with links to other sites.		