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## **MEDIA RESPONSE - 8 SEPTEMBER 2009**

On 7 September 2009 the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project team received the following questions from Deputy Editor of the Esperance Express newspaper Julia Kogan regarding the Steering Committee meeting of Thursday, 3 September 2009. The questions are reproduced in full and unedited.

1. Why was the meeting not open to the general public when the clean up process was supposed to be transparent?
2. When will the clean up of the 40 homes in Esperance start and what will be the process?
3. Michael Jackson said that: "contamination of the town was not as bad they thought." Can you elaborate?
4. How long will the whole clean up process take place?

The following was provided as a response.

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Project director Wayne Winchester said tenders for stage one of the cleaning work had closed and were currently being assessed.

"We anticipate actual cleaning will commence before the end of October and be completed before Christmas," Mr Winchester said.

He said stage one cleaning would involve premises close to and to the south west of the Port.

"Detailed sampling of these premises will define exactly the number of homes to be cleaned and the level of cleanup required at each. The project team is currently making direct contact with the owners and occupiers to arrange suitable times for sampling and cleaning," Mr Winchester said.

Mr Winchester said the cleanup project was a very transparent process.

"The steering committee was appointed by the Transport Minister and includes relevant State Government agencies, the Esperance shire, the Esperance port authority, the Esperance chamber of commerce, and community representatives," Mr Winchester said.

"The minutes of steering committee meetings and regular project updates are also available on the project website at [www.oncue.org.au](http://www.oncue.org.au) and those without Internet access can call into the project office at 2B/113 Dempster Street for an update."

He said there would also be an information booth at the upcoming Esperance Agricultural Show 16 and 17 October where people from the community could get information and ask questions of steering committee and project team members.

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