



Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project

Newsletter Number 1, 31 March 2009

The State Government is committed to cleaning up the Esperance town site of lead carbonate and nickel sulphide in a comprehensive and proper manner.

The cleanup project will be carried out carefully and systematically, with sampling of individual premises to assess the degree of contamination, followed by cleaning and then further sampling to validate the cleaning process.

On the basis of the existing data, it is anticipated that most premises in Esperance will not need cleaning, however, all premises in the town with unacceptable levels of contamination will be cleaned. Of those needing cleaning, the level of cleanup will depend on how much contamination is found and where it is located. Overall, the cleanup will include a wide range of premises, most likely including homes, tourist accommodation, commercial premises, schools and open spaces.

General arrangements

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure is managing the cleanup project, with the assistance and involvement of other State Government agencies and the Shire of Esperance.

A steering committee has been formed to oversee the cleanup project. Steering committee members include representatives from the Esperance community, the Shire of Esperance, Locals for Esperance Development, the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Department of Health, the Department of Environment and Conservation, LandCorp and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure has established an office in Esperance for the cleanup project and Dr John Ottaway has been seconded from the Department of Environment and Conservation as project director. Dr Ottaway is also a member of the steering committee and will reside in Esperance for the duration of the project. A project manager and a project assistant will be in the Esperance office to assist, and local Esperance people will be involved in sampling and cleanups.

The proposed process for the cleanup

The cleanup project will require a full investigation and analysis of the number of homes and other premises to be cleaned, and the extent of cleaning required for each. Hence, the likely duration and cost of the cleanup project is expected to be known in the latter half of 2009. It is likely that the cleaning will extend through 2010-11, with the major expenditures in 2009 and 2010.

Contacts for further information

During business hours, phone 9072 3900 or visit the cleanup office at Unit 2B, 113 Dempster Street, Esperance (next to the Bijou Theatre).