



NORTHAMPTON LEAD TAILINGS PROJECT (NLTP)

MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

28 NOVEMBER 2013

Present:

Mr Michael Jackson	Department of Lands (DoL) (Chair)
Mr Glen Bangay	Shire of Northampton
Mr Peter Beck	GHD
Mr Jon Cramer	Department of Lands (DoL)
Mr Noel Davies	Aurora Environmental
Mr Brad Dermody	Aurora Environmental
Mr Chuck Ellis	Department of Lands (DoL)
Mr Lindsay Gillam	Department of Health (DoH)
Mr Garry Keeffe	Shire of Northampton
Mr Antoine Macmath	Department of Lands (DoL)
Mr Martin Matisons	Department of Health (DoH)
Mr Grant Middleton	Shire of Northampton
Mr Andrew Miller	Department of Environment Regulation (DER)
Mr Paul Morris	Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)
Ms Kylie Wells	GHD
Cr Gordon Wilson	Northampton Community Representative

Apologies:

Dr Marisa Gilles	Department of Health (DoH)
Mr Neil Broadhurst	Shire of Northampton

1. Opening of Meeting and Review of Agenda

The Chair welcomed all participants to the third meeting of the Steering Committee and in particular Councillor Gordon Wilson and Martin Matisons.

The meeting was convened in the Council Chambers of the Shire of Northampton.

Apologies were noted from Dr Marisa Gilles who was not available for this meeting.

Members noted advice that Cr Brad Cripps had resigned from the Northampton Council and from the Steering Committee due to other commitments.

2. Report of the previous meeting

Members noted comments from Paul Morris on the draft Minutes of the previous meeting and in particular with regard to item 4 (Geology of the Northampton Area) particularly with regard to the following words "lead carbonate is more bioavailable than lead sulphide" which Mr Morris considered should not be attributed to him as this was not in his field of expertise.

Whilst the committee considered that these words were not necessarily untrue it was agreed that the words should be deleted from the document.

On this basis, Members endorsed the document as the Final Minutes of the September 2013 meeting and agreed that it should be loaded onto the DoL website.

3. Action arising from the previous meeting

3.1 Confidentiality Statement

At the September 2013 meeting it was agreed that DoL would hold the signed copies of the confidentiality statement on file.

Members noted that this action had been completed.

3.2 Communication strategies

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting it was agreed that Chuck Ellis would provide details of the NLTP to Neil Broadhurst, who will contact the editor of the Northampton Community News to arrange a full page article, covering the NLTP, in the next edition.
- Advice from Chuck Ellis that this action was delayed because there had been several other means of communication with the Northampton Community around that time. However, it is intended to provide up to date details on the progress of the Project to the Northampton Community News arising from this meeting.
- Chuck Ellis had also been contacted by the local media reporters prior to this meeting and it was likely that these reporters would be in contact with him after the meeting. DoL in conjunction with DoH had prepared a draft media statement in anticipation of this media contact. This media statement would be updated following the discussions at this meeting.
- At the September 2013 meeting it was also agreed that Aurora would provide relevant documents to Shire and brief staff.

This issue is further discussed under item 9.

Action: Chuck Ellis to provide up to date details on the NLTP for a full page article for the Northampton Community News.

3.3 Review of historical information and implications for project scope and sampling plans

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting it was noted that Aurora Environmental would provide DoL with the data base generated over the course of this Project. The CEO of the Shire of Northampton requested that this data base should be provided to the Shire for ongoing reference and use on a confidential basis.
- That this action would be completed upon completion of the Project (i.e. end of Phase 3).
- That the *Contaminated Sites Database* held by DER also stores the information on contaminated sites and could be another means for obtaining this information following the completion of this project. Agenda item 8, on the implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on properties in Northampton, was also relevant to the discussion of this matter.

- It was also agreed at the September 2013 meeting that Aurora Environmental would action the points of agreement on the review of historical information and the implications of this on the project scope and sampling plans. Aurora Environmental had completed these actions.

3.4 Proposed approach to sampling methods, logistics of property screening and timing.

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting it was agreed that it was prudent for DoL to brief the Minister for Lands on the potential for an interim management response by DoH when predetermined triggers/site specific scenarios are met/found during the course of the investigation.
- That DoL and DoH had briefed the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Health respectively on this matter.
- It was also agreed at the September 2013 meeting that Aurora Environmental would prepare a decision tree for the various scenarios anticipated in the NLTP. This action had been completed and is further discussed under item 5.2.

3.5 Proposed strategy for blood lead testing

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting, it was agreed that DoH would prepare a 'handout' for members of the Northampton community setting out the procedure for BLL testing should this be required or requested.
- Advice from Lindsay Gillam (DoH) that a procedure had been developed by the Northampton hospital, in conjunction with DoH, for blood lead testing for the Northampton community.
- That following the last meeting there appeared to be a very limited response from Northampton community to the offer of blood lead testing (only three community members had requested blood lead testing through the Northampton Hospital).
- DoH is investigating further some recent information about blood lead testing through private laboratories in Geraldton.

This matter is further discussed under item 7.

3.6 Options for disposal of lead tailings

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting, it was agreed that DER would prepare, for the next meeting of the Committee, a discussion paper setting out options for the disposal of lead tailings identified in the NLTI.
- This item is discussed under item 10.

3.7 Implications of lead tailings in terms of the Contaminated Sites Act

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting, it was agreed that DER would prepare, for the next meeting of the Committee, a discussion paper setting out the significance and implications, in terms of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, of finding lead tailings on Northampton properties (and if the owner of a property did not choose to take part in the investigation).

- This item is discussed under item 8.

3.8 Role of GHD as auditor of the project

Members noted:

- At the September 2013 meeting, it was agreed that Aurora Environmental would arrange for analysis of lead tailings samples by the ChemCentre to determine the particle size which contains the highest concentrations of lead.
- That these analyses were being conducted action had been completed and is further discussed under item 5.2.

4. Core Working Group – composition, function and frequency.

Members noted:

- Advice from Jon Cramer that following the last meeting of the Steering Committee, DoL had established a Core Working Group to resolve project management and contractual issues, on an ongoing basis.
- The meetings provide a regular means for Aurora Environmental to present their findings as the project and results become available.
- The initial members of this Core Working Group have been DoL, Aurora Environmental and GHD. Meetings had been convened on approximately a fortnightly basis. However, it was recognised that there needed to be a formal mechanism and an agreed process between DoL and DoH to ensure a close working relationship as the results of the investigation become available. As a result, DoH were invited to the 2nd meeting to enable an agreement between the two departments to be confirmed (which was formally documented and endorsed by both parties after the meeting).
- The Core Working Group had assessed the data as it became available from Aurora and classified the properties according to the decision tree developed.
- This mechanism of assessment through the Core Working Group enabled a decision on those individual properties which warranted follow-up interviews with owners/occupiers and the subsequent provision of health advice by DoH officers.
- The Core Working Group did not ‘take away’ from the role of the Steering Committee but dealt with those technical issues and project management issues which arise on a day to day basis and require quick resolution
- Issues and recommendations from the Core Working Group would be made to the Steering Committee, for consideration.
- The agenda and membership of the Core Working Group can be expanded to address other issues as required. For example the next meeting it is planned to cover issues of concern such as the correlation between portable X-ray Fluorescence (pXRF) and laboratory results and discussion around establishing site specific clean-up criteria for Northampton. Given this topic of discussion, officers from DMP and the ChemCentre will be invited.
- Three meetings of this Group had been convened to date and formal minutes of those meetings had been prepared.
- The next meeting of the Core Working Group would be convened in mid-December.

5. Update on Progress of the Northampton Lead Tailings Project

5.1 Historical review of data gap report findings

Members noted:

- A presentation by Noel Davies of Aurora Environmental on their review of the historical information and the implications of this review to the project scope and sampling plans. This review has now been completed.
- The background information on the tailings, the former State Battery, previous investigations and the town in general provided by the Government and the Shire of Northampton have been reviewed and summarised. (These data sources were listed in the September 2013 report of the Steering Committee)
- These historical information sources have enabled the classification of properties in the Northampton townsite as being either 'Known/Likely', 'Possible' or 'Unknown' to have tailings present (in decreasing order of likelihood of tailings being present).
- Those properties which have been classified as 'Known/Likely' are those properties with relatively robust historical evidence which suggests tailings are present, including public records, pre-existing data, observations and analytical data showing elevated heavy metal concentrations. In these cases the historical soil sample results are greater than 300mg/kg lead or field person observed tailings.
- Those properties which have been classified as 'Possible' are those properties where there is some evidence which suggests that tailings *may* be present.
- Using these data sources, 16 properties have been classified as 'Known/Likely' and 137 properties have been classified as 'Possible'. The remaining 606 properties in the town have been classified as being 'Unknown'.
- The methodology for classifying sites as 'Possible' is considered to be quite conservative and it is anticipated that many of these PINs will not be affected by tailings. The purpose of the field investigations is to refine the classifications derived from the assessment of historical information.
- The source of lead and other heavy metals in soils of primary interest is tailings. The tailings material has a mainly gravelly sand composition and is generally, light brown-yellow in appearance.
- Based on the sources and the NLTP's focus on tailings, the identified Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPCs) for the NLTP include lead, copper, arsenic, zinc, and cadmium.
- This information had been set out on a series of maps which included overlaying the information with maps on the known mineralisation of the town.
- The ingestion pathway is considered to be the most significant in terms of the people potentially taking up identified COPCs, with the inhalation of dusts derived from tailings less so and dermal contact the least significant. The ingestion pathway includes the ingestion of tailings and consumption of home-grown vegetables and eggs which may have elevated heavy metal contents because of the presence of tailings.
- The group of potentially sensitive receptors in the NLTP is the people which comprise the community of Northampton. Individuals, who live, work and/or recreate in the town and its surrounds, and specifically on properties where tailings are present, may be exposed to COPCs at concentrations which may pose an adverse risk to their health.

- Young children, aged 0 to 7 years, are particularly identified as being potentially sensitive given the adverse brain development affects associated with lead uptake for this stage of life. Potentially sensitive ecological receptors to COPCs and tailings also exist, however these will not be addressed by the NLTP in Phase 1 as public health is its focus.
- Following evaluation of the historical data and the preliminary Conceptual Site Model (CSM), the following key data gaps have been identified:
 1. Understanding the natural (background) heavy metal mineralisation in the town.
 2. Understanding the distribution of tailings on properties across the town.
 3. Understanding the concentrations of lead and other COPCs in tailings, soils impacted by tailings and other soils.
 4. Understanding if there are geochemical trends which may help pinpoint tailings and influence assessing potential risk levels.
 5. Understanding whether grain size of tailings has an effect on the potential for lead and other COPCs to be taken up.
 6. Understanding the level of accessibility of tailings where they are identified.
 7. Understanding whether children are likely to be exposed at properties where tailings are present or possibly present.
 8. Understanding what activities are undertaken on properties.
- The current version of the historical information and data gaps report will be subject to review by the Auditor. Copies of this report will be available to Members through DoL (after endorsement by the Auditor through his review).
- Precise details of sample locations are being recorded at the time of sampling e.g. from hardstand, vegetable gardens, etc.
- From the historical study, Aurora set out to demonstrate/validate those properties which do not have any evidence of tailings being present.
- Phase 1 is a screening study not a detailed site investigation.
- Samples analysed by pXRF are also kept for laboratory analysis. All samples will be provided to DMP at the end of the study.
- If a previous study had identified tailings on a property, Aurora in its assessment of that property will take further readings from that property in the previously identified areas to confirm or deny the results of the previous study.
- Aurora has found that lead levels of between 200 to 400mg/kg appear to be quite common where there is evidence of some lead mining in the immediate vicinity of a property.
- In highly mineralised areas, Aurora has found that the lead levels in the soil may be up to thousands of mg/kg.
- However, properties without the underlying lead geology and no evidence of mining can have a background lead concentration in the order of 50mg/kg.
- Therefore the geology of the area is found to influence naturally occurring lead levels and are generally higher than the 300mg/kg residential HIL even though there is no evidence of mining activity or placement of tailings.
- It is essential to differentiate those properties on which lead tailings have been placed and from fine grained lead from natural rock.

- That these issues need to be addressed by the Steering Committee (through the Core Working Group) and the Committee needs to make recommendations to government on how they should be dealt with.

5.2 Investigation Program Status

Members noted:

- That of a total of 757 PINs, 358 consents had been received as at 26 November i.e. 47% of the total number of PINs. This meant that there is an outstanding number of 359 PINs for which consent has not yet been received.
- The owners of 4 PINs had refused to participate in the project.
- The number of properties inspected and sampled as at 26 November was 238. This represented 31% of the total PINs.
- That as at 24 November the total number of pXRF samples taken is 1,134 and the number of laboratory samples is 131. All samples are retained for future reference.
- Lead tailings have been identified on 20 PINs.
- The number of PINs with average lead concentrations above 600mg/kg, as determined by pXRF, is 21.
- The number of PINs with average lead concentrations between 300-600mg/kg, as determined by pXRF, is 13.
- That as residents realised the significance of not consenting to property inspection, this may result in further consents being given.
- From the results of the samples taken at the time of the meeting approximately 35% of the PINs are characterised as requiring further investigation in Phase 2 of the project.
- The number of consents obtained is significantly less than expected at this time in the program and will potentially affect program delivery and budget.
- The number of consents is becoming a constraint on the work program for Aurora. Aurora is currently inspecting about 8 to 10 properties per day which leads to about 100 per fortnight. Inspection of properties is not being carried out as first envisaged using a grid pattern, but on the basis of consent forms being received.
- The time to investigate each PIN is longer than anticipated due:
 - primarily to a more comprehensive interview and data capture process; and
 - increased density of sampling but also due to inefficiencies caused by the lack of consents.
- Aurora estimates that they may complete the current number of properties for which consents have been received by early December.
- The timeline to complete the sampling program will increase if all PINs are investigated but overall project timelines should not be affected.
- The ChemCentre and CSIRO had recently completed particle size analysis of samples of tailings which showed the following sieve fractions by weight:
 - <53 μm = 8.4% (of which 60% is <10 μm)
 - 53-75 μm = 2.5%
 - 75-125 μm = 5.8%
 - 125-250 μm = 12.1%
 - 250-500 μm = 19.6%
 - 500-1000 μm = 24.9%
 - 1000-2000 μm = 22.1%

- +2000 µm = 4.6%
- Each fraction size was analysed for lead and it was found that the lead was present in all fraction ranges.
- The respirable fraction (<10µm) was unable to be separated from the <53µm fraction size.
- Some of the material observed on properties contained a mixture of grain sizes similar to the size of blue metal mixed with smaller fraction particle sizes.

Members considered:

- That larger particle size material posed a lower risk to public health.
- It is important to build on the work undertaken in characterising the tailings material to understand its risk profile.
- It was preferable to determine the 'bio-accessibility' of lead in soils rather than the actual 'bioavailability'.
- The situation in Northampton is was quite different to the situation faced in the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project because in the Esperance situation the lead carbonate which contaminated the town was in the form of a fine powder and there was no naturally present lead in the soil.
- There are precedents from other projects where a scientific assessment of bioaccessibility has enabled for the development of higher site specific criteria.
- It was essential that the Steering Committee provide clear advice to government on those premises which need further investigation and remedial actions in Phases 2 and 3 of the Project.
- That this matter required further detailed consideration. The Core Working Group should be tasked with reviewing the data obtained to date, and asked to consider how to assess the bioaccessibility of lead from properties in Northampton, whether it is possible differentiate between lead tailings and naturally high lead levels in the soil due to degraded lead derived from natural mineralisation in the area, whether it is possible to develop some form of 'matrix' to determine those properties which require further consideration in Phases 2 and 3 of the Project (and those that can be excluded from the Project)
- This matter should be reviewed by the Steering Committee at its next meeting

Action:

The Steering Committee, in assessing the data generated in the NLTP to date, requests the Core Working Group to consider this data and to provide recommendations on establishing a practical and safe trigger level that determines whether further investigation/ or management in Northampton is required, bearing in mind such factors as:

- **lead concentration in the soils,**
- **particle size of the soil fractions,**
- **current development and use of the property,**
- **exposure pathways,**
- **bioaccessibility of lead,**
- **local geology, lead mineralisation and background concentrations of lead, and**
- **other precedents for assessing similar sites.**

This evaluation should be used in order to determine which properties warrant further investigation in Phase 2 of the Project.

6. Interim management response for properties with perceived potential health risk as a result of the screening inspections

Members noted:

- Advice from Lindsay Gillam and Martin Matisons that, based on the work carried out by Aurora Environmental to date, six premises had been identified as being a potential high risk due to the presence of lead tailings.
- DoH officers had visited each of these five premises over the period leading up to the meeting (i.e. 27 and 28 November 2013) to provide advice to residents and to suggest blood lead testing where appropriate.
- Northampton residents have been receptive to DoH officers in providing advice on the potential health risks associated with high lead levels on their properties. Residents were well informed on the purpose of the NLTP.
- That DoH would maintain surveillance on the results of blood lead testing of those residents who elected to undertake this testing and provide further advice where necessary.
- It was obvious from the inspections that in several cases, additional sampling was either considered necessary by the DOH, or requested by the homeowner, in order to more clearly define elevated areas (this has since been discussed and arranged with Aurora Environmental). In addition, following the onsite assessment, the location on the PIN of some elevated results were no longer considered to pose an immediate risk to the homeowners.

7. Update on blood lead testing and other interim management measures undertaken by DoH

Members noted:

- Staff from the Northampton hospital are not authorised to carry out blood lead testing on children under the age of 12 years. In the case of young children recommended for blood lead testing, Northampton Hospital staff will make the necessary arrangements with Geraldton Hospital.
- The working relationship and 'system' between Aurora Environmental, DoH and health professionals at the Northampton Hospital is working quite well. Some refinements are being made.
- With regard to blood lead testing, three Northampton residents had presented for testing and their results were within the NH&MRC recommended levels. BLL sample results are coded by postcode.
- As indicated under item 2.5, DoH is investigating further as to some recent information about blood lead testing through private laboratories in Geraldton.
- DoH will investigate further and will provide an update to the Steering Committee accordingly.

Action: DoH to further investigate this information pertaining to blood lead testing through private laboratories in Geraldton. (All data provided will protect patient confidentiality)

8. Implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on Properties in Northampton

Members noted:

- Advice from Andrew Miller on the implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on properties in Northampton.
- For those properties for which consent is not given and that are not inspected will **not** automatically be classified as '*possibly contaminated-investigation required*'. The fact that the property is within the Northampton townsite does not represent sufficient evidence for classification.
- This approach is similar to the approach taken with service station or industrial sites which are not automatically classified as '*possibly contaminated – investigation required*'.
- However, there will be exceptions to that approach in the case where there is sufficient historical and anecdotal evidence that indicates there is a high likelihood of tailings being on that property (i.e. sufficient evidence as per any other site). In these cases sites may be classified as '*possibly contaminated-investigation required*'.
- Sites will not be classified until Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the NLTP are completed.
- Any owners of properties who have **not** given consent for inspection to the investigation team will bear the cost of any future investigation and/or management of the issue on their property in relation to lead tailings. This is a significant incentive for owners of Northampton properties to give consent for their properties to be tested.
- In the case of those properties for which consent has not been given and have not been inspected as part of this project, and the owner wishes to make any change in landuse/ development of that property, the owner will not be able to provide the sufficient documentation to demonstrate that the property does not contain lead tailings and further work will be required to be completed – at the owner's cost (or redevelopment may not be permitted at all).
- The expected classification for sites with residual material remaining on-site, after Phase 3, would be '*remediated for restricted use*'. The reasons for classification would specify the presence, nature and location of any contaminated material. If at some future date the owners of these properties wanted to undertake excavations or intrusive works in the location of the tailings, a management plan would be required. Such a management plan could be generic and apply for all properties within the Northampton townsite classified as a result of this project.
- Where a property has identified tailings completely removed and validated as part of Phase 3 works; no Contaminated Site memorial will remain on the Title for that property.
- The above reasons provide significant incentive for property owners to sign up to this investigation regardless of whether they believe they do or do not have tailings.
- These points should be incorporated into further media statements and articles to ensure that residents understand the implications of not providing consent to this investigation. Chuck Ellis agreed to incorporate these points, in some capacity, in future statements.
- The DER paper on this matter will be provided to Members out of session in the next few weeks following the meeting. This will include a Question and Answer sheet on this matter.

Actions:

- (i) Future media statements to incorporate details of the implications of not providing consent to have properties tested (Chuck Ellis)**
- (ii) DER to provide a paper on Implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on Properties in Northampton to members out of session. The paper should include a question and answer sheet on this matter.**

9. Strategies for Obtaining Consent from Remaining Property Owners

Members noted:

- A table setting out a series of possible strategies for obtaining consent from Northampton residents both owners and occupiers. The table included comments on the effectiveness of these strategies and their current status.
- A further paper setting out a 'decision tree' on the Fate of Properties which do not take part in the NLTP.
- That from a government and Steering Committee perspective it is essential to demonstrate thorough efforts to ensure that every property owner/occupier is aware of the NLTP, and has had the opportunity to discuss any questions that they have regarding the inspection and implications of consent and non-consent.
- That Aurora and DoL had achieved good success in seeking consent from group property owners, both private and government (such as the Department of Housing) land owners in Northampton.
- As distinct from the scenario encountered in the Esperance Cleanup and Recovery Project, long term residents of Northampton have a general appreciation of the geology, and the consequent presence of lead, in Northampton soils.
- That one of the most influential strategies of encouraging Northampton residents to consent to participation in the NLTP, and providing accurate and relevant information to their property, would be direct contact from Garry Keffe as Shire CEO.
- With regard to the draft media statement tabled at the meeting, that the spokesperson was currently listed as the Director General (DG) of DoL, Mike Bradford. Members questioned if it was more relevant to the residents of the Northampton community if the spokesperson was Cr Gordon Wilson, who is well known to the residents.
- That when any media statement of this nature is released, the local media would, as matter of course, contact Cr Gordon Wilson, for comment.
- Advice from Gordon Wilson that it was preferable if the media statement was released by DoL with the spokesperson being the DG of DoL. However, it would be of assistance to Cr Wilson if an advance copy of the media statement could be provided to him and the Shire CEO before it is released.
- Advice from Chuck Ellis that the draft media statement, as tabled, would be re-cast to incorporate the important and positive messages which had been raised throughout the meeting
- A copy of the table setting out the possible strategies of gaining consent from Northampton residents, incorporating the amendments of the Steering Committee, is included as Attachment 2 to this report.
- In terms of assessing the success of Phase 1 of the NLTP, it would be desirable if at least 75% of properties were screened/inspected.

- In view of the limited number of consents current available, it may be advisable if Aurora delay further screening until late January with an absolute 'cut off' date of March 2014.
- Once Phase 1 of the NLTP has been completed, it will be very difficult, to arrange screening, testing and inspection of those properties for which consent has not been given during this Phase.

Actions:

- (i) The draft media statement, as tabled, to be redrafted to incorporate the important and positive messages arising from the meeting. (Chuck Ellis)**
- (ii) An advance copy of media statement s concerning the NLTP should be provided to the Shire CEO and Cr Gordon Wilson (as well as DoH, DER and DMP). (Chuck Ellis to action)**
- (iii) Garry Keeffe to contact and encourage consent from those Northampton property owners who have not yet given consent to participation in the NLTP. Aurora to provide details of those properties for which consent has not been given.**

10. Options for disposal of lead tailings

Members noted:

- Advice from Andrew Miller on the options for disposal of lead tailings identified in the NLTP.
- Mr Miller had consulted with the Licensing Branch of DER and the EPA on this matter.
- It was the view of DER that the creation of a containment cell in the Northampton area for on-going use appeared to be the preferred option.
- The leachability of the lead tailings is the most critical factor in determining the disposal options for the tailings and therefore the suitability of potential disposal sites. This criteria is likely to require disposal of the tailings in a Class IV landfill facility.
- The EPA has advised that this matter may not need to be assessed on the basis that it is assessed by the Licensing Branch of DER. Further formal advice is anticipated from the EPA on this matter.
- That Mr Miller, the Shire CEO and DoL officers were inspecting a local abandoned mine site on the morning following the meeting to determine if this site would be suitable for disposal of the lead tailings identified in the NLTP. Shire officers considered that this particular site was worthy of consideration for disposal of lead tailings only. It was not contemplated that this site would be used as a general landfill site nor was it intended at this stage that the Shire of Northampton would transport tailings from other mine sites to this disposal site.
- If a site could be found locally which was considered suitable for acceptance of the lead tailings, this would simplify the process and reduce the costs of disposal.
- If a containment cell was to be established, it would be preferable if the cell remained 'open' for disposal of lead tailings on an ongoing basis (as compared with the current/existing Northampton lead tailings containment cell which is capped and closed).

- At this stage it is not known what will be the volume of lead tailings requiring disposal from properties in Northampton. The amount of tailings requiring disposal will not be known until phase 3 of the project.
- There are two types of tailings in Northampton – lead based tailings and copper based tailings.
- Advice from Noel Davies that the process for gaining approval for a site for disposal of lead tailings is likely to require substantial studies to demonstrate the suitability of the site. This process will take about 12 to 18 months.
- The Redhill (Class IV landfill facility) is closed during the winter period and is capped with clay. The cap is then removed in spring to allow further disposal during the summer drier months.
- The DER paper on this matter will be provided to Members out of session in the next few weeks following the meeting.

Action: DER to provide a paper on ‘Options for Disposal of Northampton Lead Tailings’ to Members, out of session.

11. Next meeting and close of meeting

Members considered that the next meeting of the Steering Committee should be convened, at a date to be determined, in late February to early March 2014.

Members considered that the next meeting should be convened at the Council Chambers in Northampton.

It was noted that the celebrations to mark Northampton’s 150 year anniversary are to be held on 19 March 2014.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.

NORTHAMPTON LEAD TAILINGS PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

13 September 2013

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

1. Communication strategies

Action:

Chuck Ellis to provide up to date details on the NLTP for a full page article for the Northampton Community News.

2. Proposed strategy for blood lead testing

Action:

Action: DoH to further investigate this information pertaining to blood lead testing through private laboratories in Geraldton. (All data provided will protect patient confidentiality)

3. Investigation Program Status

Action:

The Steering Committee, in assessing the data generated in the NLTP to date, requests the Core Working Group to consider this data and to provide recommendations on establishing a practical and safe trigger level that determines whether further investigation/ or management in Northampton is required, bearing in mind such factors as:

- lead concentration in the soils,
- particle size of the soil fractions,
- current development and use of the property
- exposure pathways,
- bioaccessibility of lead,
- local geology, lead mineralisation and background concentrations of lead, and
- other precedents for assessing similar sites.

This evaluation should be used in order to determine which properties warrant further investigation in Phase 2 of the Project.

4. Implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on Properties in Northampton

Actions:

- (i) Future media statements to incorporate details of the implications of not providing consent to have properties tested. (Chuck Ellis)
- (ii) DER to provide a paper on Implications of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* on Properties in Northampton to members out of session. The paper should include a question and answer sheet on this matter.

5. Strategies for Obtaining Consent from Remaining Property Owners

Actions:

- (i) The draft media statement, as tabled, to be redrafted to incorporate the important and positive messages arising from the meeting. (Chuck Ellis)
- (ii) An advance copy of media statements concerning the NLTP should be provided to the Shire CEO and Cr Gordon Wilson (as well as DoH, DER and DMP). (Chuck Ellis to action)
- (iii) Garry Keeffe to contact and encourage consent from those Northampton property owners who have not yet given consent to participation in the NLTP. Aurora to provide details of those properties for which consent has not been given.

6. Options for disposal of lead tailings

Action:

DER to provide a paper on 'Options for Disposal of Northampton Lead Tailings' to Members, out of session.

Northampton Lead Tailings Project – Assessment of Strategies for Gaining Consent for Inspection of Properties

Strategy	Detail	Exhausted/ Continue/ Pursue	Comments
Letter Drops	DoL letter drops in March and August, Aurora Letter drops in August and September	Exhausted	The letter drops have achieved as much as they are going to. Were limited to residential.
Marquee at Northampton Show	Project marquee at the Northampton Show 14 September 2013	Exhausted	Useful for project awareness in Community. ‘One off’ opportunity. Limited number of consent forms received.
Shire Office	Blank consent forms held at the Shire Office and is a place for submitting completed consent forms	Continue	Most logical first port of call for most people in town.
DoL Website	Consent forms can be downloaded from website	Continue	Provides another means for obtaining a consent form.
Community Newsletter	Advertise the project and consent process through the community newsletter	Continue/ Pursue	An advertisement was put into the community newsletter in August 2013. However this was very small. DoL is organising a full page advertisement to be put into the newsletter.
Media	Outline the purpose and benefits of getting your property tested as part of this project.	Continue/Pursue	The media can assist in reinforcing the message to residents that this is a ‘one-off’ opportunity to have your property inspected. Media should continue to be engaged with delivery of project progress which may encourage people to give consent for inspection of their property.
Door Knocking/ Call Backs	Aurora to speak with ‘unconsented’ property occupiers in the proximity to where they are sampling.	Continue	This strategy is able to ‘pick up’ people that may not have received any information from the other strategies. It also allows for the inspectors to discuss the project. The effectiveness of this strategy is yet to be realised.

Strategy	Detail	Exhausted/ Continue/ Pursue	Comments
Target Government Owners	Interrogate database and find all state and local government managed land and speak directly with agency to get ‘blanket’ consents for property inspections	Continue (almost exhausted)	Aurora and DoL have had good success in group land parcels according to owner and pursuing them for blanket consents. The Department of Housing is a very important player in this process and they have been engaged.
Discussion during Inspection	Aurora staff are finding that in a lot of cases the property that they have consent to inspect is actually one of many properties owned by that person. By discussing with the property owner – more PINS can be consented for inspection.	Continue	Aurora to progress throughout inspections
Target remaining PINS	Interrogate database to analyse the types of properties that are not consented and break down into groups for specific targeting either by landuse or names and target through Registered letters, phone or door knock	Pursue	As the list of remaining properties diminishes, the remaining dataset is more manageable in terms of specific targeting. DoL staff can help Aurora with this task. Pursue strategies other than registered letters at this stage.
DER and DoL to write to specific land owners	To write to any of the unconsented/inspected 137 properties identified by Aurora as being “suspected of containing tailings” based on historical evidence to recommend they should be looked at as part of this investigation or they may be classified under the CS Act 2003.	Not at this stage	Obviously a last resort but we need to inform the property owners of why this investigation is important not only from a public health perspective but also from a property encumbrance perspective
Minister to hold a Press-Conference	Minister to outline benefits to town in terms of collecting the entire dataset and being able to deal with the issue in its entirety once and for all.	Not considered appropriate	Given the pending change in Minister and other priorities – Not considered appropriate at this time.

Strategy	Detail	Exhausted/ Continue/ Pursue	Comments
Shire CEO and President to encourage remaining residents	Through any means possible, the CEO, President and Councillors could help endorse the benefits of the project to the town for the future.	Possibly the most influential strategy at this stage - Continue	These people are well respected in the town and have led by example by signing up to get their properties tested as well as all of the Shire managed land.
Shire EHO to help Aurora encourage remaining property owners	Given the EHO's local knowledge and contacts, it would be a useful exercise for him to help Aurora gain the remaining consents	Pursue	Dependent on the EHO's workload.

Sampling Plan Developed by Aurora Environmental Based on Review of Historical Information

Sampling Classification	Development on PIN?¹	Total approx. pXRF points	Systematic Locations	Targeted Locations
UNKNOWN	No	4-6	4-6 points approx. evenly spaced	None
	Yes	8-12	6-8 points approx. evenly spaced over developed portion	2-4 points at locations tailings are most possible ²
POSSIBLE	Yes	8-12	6-8 points approx. evenly spaced over developed portion	2-4 points at locations tailings are most possible ²
KNOWN/ LIKELY	Yes	3-6	None ^{3,4}	3-6 points at locations where tailings are known