

Elevated lead levels in soil at Bungendore

April 2022

Transport for NSW has identified lead contamination in the soil along the rail corridor at Bungendore. While the rail line at Bungendore is currently used to carry passengers between Sydney and Canberra, previously lead ore from the mine at Captains Flat was transported to Bungendore in small, uncovered wagons. At Bungendore, the lead ore was transferred into larger wagons and then transported via rail to Port Kembla.

We have found elevated levels of lead in soil in the areas next to and within the rail tracks and some areas of rail corridor where trains were previously required to slow down, stop or load and unload. This includes near the unofficial car park for the Bungendore Public School on the corner of Majara Street and Kings Highway and the woolshed which is used by the Lake George Men's Shed.

Results of soil testing in November 2021

Additional soil testing was carried out along the rail corridor between Bungendore and Captains Flat in November 2021. The testing determined that there are some elevated levels of lead in the following locations:

- the unofficial car park for the Bungendore Public School on the corner of Majara Street and Kings Highway. This area will remain fenced until it can be remediated.
- the woolshed which is used by the Lake George Men's Shed. We are consulting with the Men's Shed to make the site safe and establish a new access.
- next to three private properties adjacent to the corridor. Transport is consulting with the property owners.
- in an isolated area near the bus stop on Gibraltar Street. Transport has advised Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council who has now erected a fence around the area.

Transport is finalising the Preliminary Site Investigation stage of the project. The reports for this stage of the project are available on the project website at nswroads.work/Bungendore.

Working with the EPA

Transport reported the soil contamination to the EPA on 29 September 2021, in line with its obligations under the Contaminated Lands Management Act.

Transport will continue to work closely with the EPA as it works through the steps to remediate the site.

Next steps

We will continue consultation with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Lake George Men's Shed, Rotary Club and potentially impacted residents to resolve localised matters.

Upon completion of the Preliminary Site Investigation stage of the project, Transport will commence the Detailed Site Investigation. This will be followed by the development of a plan to manage the contamination.

Further information

For more information about lead exposure, please see advice on the NSW Health website at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/lead-exposure-children.aspx>

For more information about managing lead in the environment see the EPA website at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/household-building-and-renovation/lead-safety>

Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our project team:



1800 491 566



bungendore.info@transport.nsw.gov.au



transport.nsw.gov.au



18 Lee Street, Chippendale NSW 2008
PO Box K659, Haymarket NSW 1240



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