

Community update on lead contamination investigation and current actions in Tarago NSW

Initial testing of private property and public spaces for the presence of lead has now been completed and all results have been communicated to residents.

Completion of requested community testing

All initial testing has now been completed and the test results provided to each household. The initial phase of testing included:

- Analysis of over 700 soil, water, dust and paint samples
- 250 in field soil samples
- Some 32 private properties and 9 public spaces have undergone testing and all residents and community groups have been provided their results by the Transport for NSW Project Manager and the environmental specialist conducting the testing.
- Set up 7 groundwater wells and 10 surface water monitoring locations with the rail corridor and on public land. Surface water monitoring will continue at these sites.
- Set up dust monitoring at four locations within the community, monitoring will continue.

In response to the test results, sediment from a number of water tanks will be cleaned out. The drinking water in all the tanks was found to be safe for human consumption. During the tank cleaning process the water will be pumped out and if the households have no use for it, the water will be used on the rail corridor to water vegetation. The sediment from the tanks will be removed and disposed of at a waste facility.

The Department of Health recommends that certain groups in the community, such as pregnant women, infants, children and the elderly, may wish to take extra care when consuming water from a rain water tank by using only boiled, bottled or micro-filtered water. The Department of Health has extensive information about the maintenance of rain water tanks which can be found at

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/water/Pages/rainwater.aspx>

Voluntary Management Proposal Approved

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has approved the Tarago railyard Voluntary Management Proposal. This proposal details the requirement for further investigations and remediation of the lead contamination in the railyard. It sets out the actions and timeframes for completion. The approved plan can be found at the Tarago community webpage for this project.

Next steps

Work is continuing on development of the Remedial Action Plans for the railyard. These plans will outline how we will ensure the community will not be exposed to any lead contaminated material on the railyard site.

For more information please contact us:



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