

July 2020

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

An Action Plan for the interim management of lead on the Tarago rail corridor site has been developed and implementation has started.

Voluntary Management Proposal Approved

A Voluntary Management Proposal is how Transport for NSW is responding to the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) declaration of contaminated sites such as the rail corridor at Tarago. The voluntary management proposal outlines how Transport for NSW will manage the contamination on the site and any off-site impacts caused by the contamination.

The Voluntary Management Proposal for the Tarago rail corridor is broken into three stages.

Stage 1 define problem

- Assess the nature and extent of the contaminant at the site and the migration of the contaminant from the site
- Develop an Action Plan for interim management of risks to off site receptors from the contaminant originating from the site

We are here

Stage 2 develop soloution

 Develop remedial action plans RAP(s) defining how risks associated with the contaminant originating from the site will be addressed

Stage 3 implement soloution

- Complete planning approval to conduct the works required
- Contract the civil and environmental works required
- Implement the RAP(s)
- Validate the RAP(s) has been implemented

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Action Plan (stage one)

Following the assessment of the extent and nature of contamination on the rail corridor site and in the Tarago Township, an Action Plan for the interim management of the rail corridor site has been prepared. This plan outlines actions to be taken to minimise the exposure to lead from the site until permanent works on site can be completed. Permanent site remediation is expected to be completed by early 2022.

Key actions being carried out are:

- Stopping dust and water from leaving the site through the use of soil binders and sediment barriers. These actions have been carried out and will continue to be monitored.
- Following detailed testing, cleaning out contaminated sediment from 14 rainwater tanks and cleaning internal dust from a small number of properties, all in close proximity to the site. The cleaning of rainwater tanks has been completed.
- Fencing and signage has been installed to stop access to the site for everyone but approved workers.

Remedial Action Plans (stage two)

Work has started on the development of Remedial Action Plans for the rail corridor site. These plans will outline how we will permanently ensure the community will not be exposed to any lead contaminated material from the rail corridor site.

Next steps

During stage one, to identify the extent of the lead contamination problem, extensive soil testing was carried throughout the Tarago Township. The results indicate lead contamination has occurred historically through the movement of lead ore from the mine site to the rail yards and at the load out facility at the rail siding. We are working with Goulburn-Mulwaree Council, NSW Health and the EPA to address the areas of historic contamination which fall outside the rail corridor or the area directly impacted by rail operations. The environmental specialists advising us on the project have assessed the risks associated with this historic contamination as low.

For more information please contact us:







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