

# Project Fact Sheet and FAQs

## Goulburn Wheat Yards Land Management Project

February 2024



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.

### About the project

Transport for NSW (**Transport**) has identified elevated levels of lead, asbestos containing materials (**ACM**), and other contaminants at the Goulburn Wheat Yards (**Site**) related to historical industrial activities associated with use of the precinct.

The Site was reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (**EPA**) in October 2021 and is awaiting determination whether regulation is required under the *Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act)*.

The health and wellbeing of the community is Transport's highest priority. To manage any potential risks to the community and environment, an Interim Environmental Management Plan (**IEMP**) is in place.

### Where are we up to

The project is currently in Detailed Site Investigation phase to assess and determine the extent of the contamination.

The IEMP was updated in June 2023 and Transport is currently progressing procurement for implementation of the control measures identified in the IEMP. The IEMP will continue to be reviewed and updated as additional investigations and findings are completed.

In June 2023, x-ray fluorescence (**XRF**) offsite soil sample collection was undertaken to determine whether the contamination has migrated outside of the rail corridor. Transport has finalised the report which confirms that there is no offsite migration of lead contamination and no risk to human health or the environment.

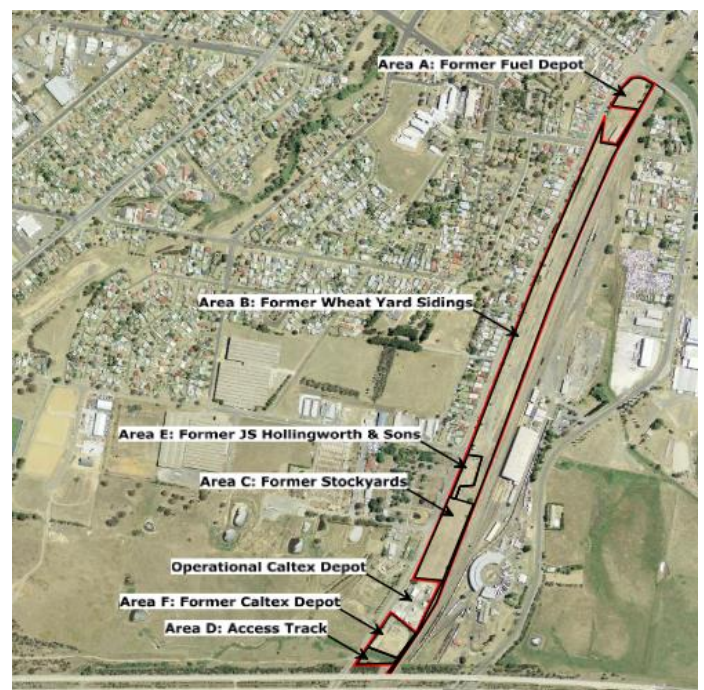
The report is available on the project website as well as the Interim Audit Advice on the report.

### What's next

The next step in the project is to undertake a supplementary Detailed Site Investigation (**DSI**) and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (**HHERA**). The supplementary DSI will help us determine the full extent of the contamination and the HHERA will identify any risks to the community and environment.

Procurement for the additional investigations is now finished with works expected to take place in 2024. Outcomes of these investigations will inform the next stage of the project.

### Project map



# Frequently asked questions

## About health and safety

What are you doing to prevent exposure to contamination and potential migration?

Transport for NSW is committed to ensuring the health and wellbeing of the community. To manage any potential risks to the community and environment, an IEMP is in place.

As a part of the IEMP a number of controls have been implemented which include fencing to create an exclusion zone, installing warning signs, application of a spray seal to control dust, erosion and sediment / drainage controls, ongoing inspections / monitoring of controls, and implementation of a routine ACM hand-picking program to prevent movement of ACM fragments and reduce the ACM load across the Site.

We are also working with the EPA and relevant government agencies to ensure we fully address any impacts on the community, workers, and environment.

How likely is it that I have been exposed to lead?  
How can I be tested?

Unlikely, as the likelihood that a person has been exposed is dependent on several factors including the level of lead in the immediate environment (soil, water and air), activities that could increase exposure, the length of exposure and the person's age and general health.

If you are concerned about possible exposure to high levels of lead, please see your local GP to request a blood test. You can request this test to be bulk billed.

How can we find out if animals/pets have been impacted?

If you have concerns about any companion animals/pets, please speak to your private veterinarian.

Can elevated lead levels from soil and water get into fruit and vegetables?

Plants do not readily absorb lead, but the amount they do absorb depends on the species and the variety of plant, the chemical composition of the soil, the amount of lead in the soil and the soil temperature. Leafy vegetables and herbs tend to accumulate more lead compared to fruiting vegetables.

If you are concerned, fruit and vegetables should be grown in raised garden beds, using clean imported soil and washed prior to cooking and consuming.

Can people safely live with lead?

Yes. There are practical ways to manage potential exposure to lead in and around the home.

For information on living with lead or managing lead in the environment please see resources from NSW Health and the NSW EPA below.

[EPA Factsheet](#)

[NSW Health-living with lead](#)

## General questions about project

Why is it taking so long?

The contamination remediation process is regulated and complex.

We are following industry best practice, working with numerous external agencies and engaging industry leading professionals to obtain the best possible outcomes for the site.

As such, these matters can take some time to resolve. We will continue to keep you updated as the matter is investigated and resolved.

How is the EPA involved?

Transport voluntarily reported the Site to the NSW EPA in October 2021 and we are waiting to hear back from the EPA on whether the Site will be considered significantly contaminated under the CLM Act.

The outcome of the EPA determination will inform the next steps for the Site.

### What are the future use plans for the Site?

There are no plans for the Site at this time.

### Are residents going to be impacted by night works?

No night works are planned at this stage. However, if for any reason we do need to carry out some work at night, we will notify the community. You may see operations during the day, these are normal operations to maintain the corridor.

## About investigations and controls

### What contamination have the investigations identified and what were the levels?

Investigations into the Site have identified widespread lead contamination, asbestos containing material as well as other contaminants including arsenic, copper and/or zinc concentrations. Lead levels varied across different locations within the Site from low to above the guidelines for commercial/industrial land use. The highest levels of lead were found in Area B, the Former Wheat Yard Sidings.

### What was the outcome of the offsite testing in June 2023?

The offsite testing found that there is no offsite migration of lead contamination and no risk to human health or the environment. This report is available on the project website as well as the Interim Audit Advice on the report.

### Will you be undertaking more testing?

Transport will undertake a supplementary Detailed Site Investigation to address data gaps identified from previous investigations. Once finalised we will determine whether additional testing is required. If no further testing is required, Transport will progress to the next stage of the project, which is remediation planning.

### Is there groundwater contamination?

Yes, some groundwater contamination was identified during the detailed site investigation. Transport has an annual ground water monitoring program in place to ensure that the groundwater plume identified is not migrating offsite.

### Are you undertaking any air or surface water monitoring?

Some monitoring will occur as a part of the Supplementary Site Investigation. However, no ongoing air and surface water monitoring is planned at this stage.

## General questions about contamination

### What is the process for assessment and management of the contamination?

The process for assessing and managing contamination varies from site to site but can be broadly divided into the following phases:



## What is remediation?

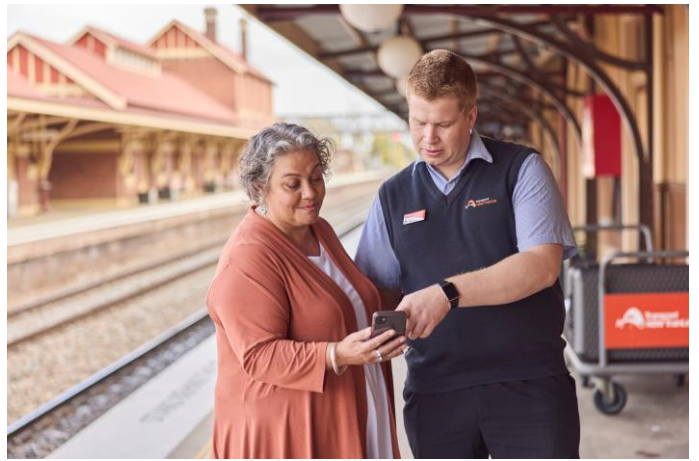
Remediation is the management, containment, treatment, or removal of contamination so that it no longer represents an actual or potential harm to human health or the environment.

Remediation takes into account the current and intended future land use. The land use of the site is a key factor in determining the extent of remediation that is required.

The site needs to be remediated to a level that will allow the land to be used for its intended purpose(s) and to manage risk so far as is reasonably practicable.

## How is Transport addressing railway contamination in regional NSW?

Transport has an active contamination program that is progressively identifying and prioritising legacy contaminated areas along various rail lines for further investigation and management.



## Working with you

Transport is committed to keeping the community informed and will do this using a variety of communication channels such as email, community notifications, social media, our project website and moving forward, newsletters. Transport will also hold community information sessions from time to time, either face to face in the local area or online. We will notify the community about these events ahead of time.

## Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 491 566**



[landassessment@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landassessment@transport.nsw.gov.au)



[www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/goulburn-rail-corridor-contamination](http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/goulburn-rail-corridor-contamination)



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