

Our ref: 00045970 Brief Overview of Public Lands Testing

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Dear Greg and Joanna

Brief Overview of Results for Orica Mercury Independent Review: Stage 2 Environmental Testing Regime – Works on Public Lands

WSP Environmental Pty Ltd (WSP) were engaged by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to conduct Stage 2 of the Orica Mercury Independent Review. The Stage 2 works pertain to the testing of public and private lands within a 1.5km radius of Orica's former chlor-alkali plant (FCAP) for potential contamination.

Investigations of public lands (including parks, road verges and public waterways) were conducted during February 2015 and this letter report presents an overview of initial findings. Results have been compared with NSW EPA endorsed criteria and those recommended as appropriate in Stage 1 of the Independent Review. All works were completed in accordance with a Sampling, Analysis and Quality Plan which was endorsed by the EPA and the Steering Committee.

A summary of the key report findings (WSP, 2015) is as follows:

- Shallow soil testing has been carried out at 148 locations across parks and road verges surrounding the FCAP. Mercury concentrations in all samples collected were less than human health criteria for residential land use and were also less than those applicable to public open spaces.
- A subset of 17 samples collected in the vicinity of Grace Campbell Crescent were also analysed for lead, chromium, PAHs and PCBs. All results were less than human health criteria for residential land use and are also less than those applicable to public open spaces.
- Mercury vapour concentrations have been assessed within accessible stormwater drain entrances at 19 locations down-gradient of the FCAP (at the surface and at one metre above each accessible pit). Mercury vapour concentrations were also measured at each soil testing location. All mercury vapour concentrations recorded were less than the adopted criteria for long term inhalation exposure.
- Shallow sediment samples were collected from 20 locations within and surrounding the Penrhyn Estuary. All mercury concentrations within the samples were well below thresholds protective of direct human contact. The majority of mercury results exceeded the lower thresholds for sediment quality but all were less than the higher sediment quality threshold. These results are not unexpected as mercury has been detected at elevated concentrations in the estuary in the past.
- Biota testing was also undertaken in the Penrhyn Estuary, with fish samples from five species (35 specimens in total) collected and analysed for mercury content. All mercury results were less than current criteria for human consumption.

Yours sincerely

for WSP Environmental

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin McKay'.

Colin McKay
Principal Environmental Scientist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Barnett'.

Stephen Barnett
Principal Environmental Engineer