

Update for Collingwood Park residents

Wednesday 4 June 2008

Assistance package

The Queensland Government announced on 5 May 2008 that it will repair or buy Collingwood Park properties damaged by mine subsidence.

This means that any existing house in Collingwood Park that has been damaged by mine subsidence, now or in the future, will be repaired for the lifetime of the property. If the damage is too extensive to repair, the Queensland Government will purchase the house, based on independent valuations of its market value prior to subsidence.

Assistance package includes:

- paying for any works necessary to stabilise a house or make it safe
- repairs of mining subsidence-related damage when it is cost-effective to do so
- purchase of any property that is beyond economic repair, or has to be demolished.

These ex-gratia payments are for the lifetime of the property and will continue to apply even if the property changes ownership.

This process will take time, but residents will be kept informed along the way.

Subsidence effects

If your house is showing any of the following signs of subsidence, please call 1800 109 122 to organise an inspection:

- multiple cracks in internal or external walls and ceilings
- cracks opening or widening in a short amount of time
- uneven floors
- difficulty opening and closing doors and windows
- cracks in the ground
- clear subsidence of the ground under paths and driveways.

Taskforce

The Queensland Government has established a taskforce with other government agencies and the Ipswich City Council. The taskforce will make further recommendations to Cabinet in the next three months on the assistance package implementation and the overall response.

Inspections

Structural engineers have completed building inspections on 46 houses in and near the subsidence investigation area. Reports for 28 houses have so far been received and will be sent to residents very soon. All properties within the subsidence zone have now had building inspections.

In the wider area, 220 properties have been examined by DME and inspections on another 200 properties are underway.

Streets include: Part Duncan, McInerney, Reerden, McLaughlin, Moloney, Milgate, Flinn, Stowell, Burrell, Fowler, McBay Streets; Lawrie Drive; Hermann Avenue; Collingwood Drive; Drysdale Avenue; Volger, Heysen, Strahan, Rush and Warren Court.

Map

The map on the back shows the subsidence area in order of priority for site visits.

Priority for inspections is focused on properties that are located within the main investigation zone, then spanning outwards from there.

While this process is difficult for residents anxious for an outcome, it will take time to finalise the necessary inspections and reports. It must be a thorough process, and we are moving as quickly as possible to minimise any uncertainty for residents.

If you believe that subsidence damage is occurring in your home, please take photos of the damage as soon as possible, and keep taking photographs as any changes occur. This recorded information will be vital in helping with assessments.

Department of Mines and Energy

Freecall 1800 109 122 www.dme.qld.gov.au
cp_propertyqueries@dme.qld.gov.au

Ipswich City Council

3810 6666 www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

Ipswich Water

3810 7855 or 3810 6666 (after hours)

Department of Communities counselling service

3280 1777

Lifeline Ipswich 3281 8688

Lifeline 24-hour service 13 11 14

Department of Mines and Energy (freecall)

1800 109 122

COLLINGWOOD PARK SITE VISIT PRIORITY AREAS

