

Media statement

Department of Mines and Energy

27 April 2008

Collingwood Park subsidence update

The Department of Mines and Energy today continued to assess the full impact of land subsidence at Collingwood Park over the weekend.

Inspections by Department of Mines and Energy and Ipswich City Council officers today identified further slippage in the affected area, with some damage now extending beyond the initial investigation area.

About twenty homes have been identified as having some subsidence effects, in an area roughly bounded by the intersections of Duncan, McInnerney and McLaughlin streets, and Moloney Street.

The Department of Mines and Energy's executive director of Statewide Services, Jim Grundy said officers were doorknocking the residents in the area today to identify damaged homes.

"Any residents in the immediate area that have not already been contacted by the department, and who may have concerns about their properties should contact the department's freecall number 1800 109 122 to register and the department will be in contact with them," he said.

"Four houses were evacuated on Saturday as a precautionary measure, but there has been no need today for any further evacuations."

Mr Grundy said assessment of the area would continue tomorrow, and structural engineers would be engaged to conduct formal building inspections of damaged homes, and report.

The Department of Mines and Energy will continue working with Ipswich City Council to support affected residents.

"We will continue to monitor and officers will be onsite again tomorrow (Monday) morning, but it may yet be a few days before we can determine the full extent of the subsidence and its effects on homes.

"Once we have detailed studies of the area, and once we have established the extent and the total area affected by subsidence, we will put together a comprehensive, longer term response plan."

Mr Grundy said Minister for Mines and Energy Geoff Wilson was on site today talking to affected residents, and again thanked the Ipswich City Council, and the Member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller for their assistance today.

ENDS

Issued by:

Kate Southwell, Media and Communication Unit
Department of Mines and Energy, Ph: 0408 197 932