

26 April 2008

## Expert team assessing Collingwood Park subsidence

Department of Mines and Energy mines inspectors and Ipswich City Council engineers are on-site at a subsidence incident that occurred at Collingwood Park early this morning.

One home has been evacuated as a team of experts assesses the extent of the affected area, potential damage to homes, and whether the subsidence is continuing.

Police have cordoned off the road and up to seven homes and a domestic garage may be affected.

The Department of Mines and Energy's executive director of Statewide Services, Jim Grundy said subsidence monitoring was currently in place.

"Council structural engineers and survey staff have set up a series of survey marks to map the cracking.

"Regular readings will pick up even minor movement taking place and will give the team on-site a picture of exactly where and how quickly any movement is occurring," Mr Grundy said.

"Data gathered from these readings will help us to determine the appropriate course of action and decision-making around the subsidence event," he said.

"Apart from the Mines Inspectorate and council engineers, the department has called-in a geotechnical expert with a thorough knowledge of Ipswich's mine workings – particularly in the Collingwood Park area - to assist.

"The Department will also arrange building inspectors to assess homes affected by the subsidence."

Mr Grundy said the Member for Bundamba Joanne Miller had also been on-site helping liaise with residents.

"We are treating this subsidence very seriously and keeping residents informed about what we are doing," he said.

"Obviously this is very concerning for them, and we will do everything we can to help them as we assess and decide what needs to be done.

"Safety will be the first priority in deciding what actions to take."

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Mr Grundy said cracking was evident in vacant blocks, roadways, curbing and channelling and trees near power lines would be lopped as a precaution.

“It is believed the subsidence is due to previous mine workings around 125 metres below ground.”

DME has offered the option of alternative accommodation to affected residents.

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