

## Home inspections

The majority of homes in Collingwood Park are not in a mining influence area.

Requests for inspections for more than 400 homes have already been received, with about 220 homes already visited. The schedule of visits will increase now that the school holidays have finished.

There is currently a three-stage process for home inspections.

1. Departmental officers will visit homes in response to residents lodging a request with the department's freecall number 1800 109 122.
2. If necessary, a further building inspection will be conducted by the Department of Public Works. It is expected this may eventually involve up to 250 homes.
3. Only if the building inspection shows further investigation is necessary, the structural engineer contracted by the department will do a structural assessment of the home and provide a structural report.

For property owners to be eligible for assistance under the Queensland Government's assistance package, there must firstly be identified structural damage; subsidence must be established as the cause of the damage; and underground mining established as the cause of that subsidence.

The department has been receiving requests for home inspections from residents well outside the known undermined area in Collingwood Park. The majority of homes in Collingwood Park are not in a mining influence area.

Officers will respond to these requests for inspection as soon as possible, but in cases where the homes are located some distance from undermining, this may take some time.

## Contact details

### Department of Mines and Energy

1800 109 122  
[www.dme.qld.gov.au](http://www.dme.qld.gov.au)

### Ipswich City Council

3810 6666  
[www.ipswich.qld.gov.au](http://www.ipswich.qld.gov.au)

### Ipswich Water

3810 7855  
3810 6666 (after hours)

### Department of Communities

3280 1777

### Lifeline Ipswich

3281 8688

### Lifeline 24-hour service

13 11 14

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# Update for Collingwood Park residents

Friday 18 July 2008

## Community information night on Friday 25 July

The Department of Mines and Energy's Collingwood Park Mines Subsidence Response Team will stage the next community information night at the Collingwood Park State School on Friday, 25 July 2008.

There will be two information sessions on Friday night, the first at 5.00pm, followed by a second session starting at 7.00pm.

Department of Mines and Energy Director-General Dan Hunt, Member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller and DME Project Controller Jim Grundy will be available to detail the latest actions in the State Government's response and to take questions from the community.

All members of the Collingwood Park community are invited to attend the meetings at the school in Burrell Street.



A community information night will be held on Friday 25 July at Collingwood Park State School.

Session times are 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

## Duncan Street to re-open on Monday 21 July

The Ipswich City Council has advised it plans to re-open Duncan Street to all traffic on Monday 21 July.

Council crews have spent the past week working on the road and footpaths in the mine subsidence-affected area.

Ipswich Deputy Mayor Cr Victor Attwood said interim repairs to the various broken kerbs, driveways, footpaths and roads, mostly with asphalt and top soil, were expected to be completed by the end of next week.

## On-site subsidence office opens for business

The department's Collingwood Park Mine Subsidence On-site Office has been operating at 8 McLaughlin Street since 7 July.

Departmental mine subsidence response team members and Department of Communities and Lifeline representatives have been working from the on-site office from 8.30am–5.30pm Monday to Friday, offering a local point of contact for residents seeking information on the Queensland Government's response to the mine subsidence.

In the long-term the on-site office is planned to be a base for technical officers and a venue for appointments with residents. Operating hours will be reviewed to ensure it best meets the needs of the department and residents.

## Purchase of properties

The purchase by the State Government of two properties in the immediate subsidence impact area has been completed, and the response team has made offers to a further three property owners.

So far, the Government has identified seven homes where offers of purchase will be made to the homeowners.

The Public Trustee is handling the property purchase process on behalf of government, and purchase prices will be based on pre-subsidence valuations provided by two separate valuers.

The department has also delivered all of the structural reports to home owners where a structural engineer has inspected their property.

Appointments to discuss the structural report with a departmental officer can be made by phoning the **1800 109 122** hotline.

## Task force investigates best options to ensure property guarantee

The task force established by the Queensland Government to oversee the Collingwood Park mine subsidence response is investigating the best option of ensuring the government's guarantee on properties in the area is permanent.

The Queensland Government announced special legislation last month to enable existing property owners in the Collingwood Park area to have a legal note placed on their title documents.

The notification will recognise that the property is located in an at-risk area and will entitle owners to assistance if subsidence damages their home.

The task force is investigating the proposal and consulting with valuation experts to determine the best approach to implement this, including whether the notification on affected title is voluntary or mandatory.

The Queensland Government has also announced a second stage of the proposal, which could give the State and Local Governments the power to prevent inappropriate development in old mining areas state-wide by developing special mine subsidence zones.

Premier Anna Bligh last month asked the Department of Mines and Energy to investigate the parameters for the state-wide scheme and report back to Cabinet in August.

## Free undermining searches

The department has hand-delivered 122 undermining searches to residents in the Collingwood Park area.

The majority of homes in Collingwood Park are not in a mining influence area, and the undermining searches have been valuable in clarifying the status of properties.

The department is continuing to receive requests for the free undermining searches, and is progressing all requests as quickly as possible.

Along with the results of the searches, residents receive general information about subsidence, which is not necessarily the result of mining activity. Other potential causes of subsidence include shrinkage of clay soils, extraction of underground water and settlement of land fill.

For more information on structural damage and subsidence, refer to the Building Service Authority website: [www.bsa.qld.au/home/builderscontractors/techinfo](http://www.bsa.qld.au/home/builderscontractors/techinfo) or phone **07 3225 2829**.