

Community meeting

Member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller and the department will host another Community Meeting at the Collingwood Park State School, tentatively scheduled for Friday 25 July 2008. A meeting time has yet to be finalised, but residents will be advised as soon as possible.

The meeting will provide residents with an update on the Queensland Government's activities in response to the subsidence, and an opportunity to ask questions of the response team.

Geotechnical study

A consultant has begun the scoping exercise for the geotechnical study of the Collingwood Park subsidence.

The scoping exercise will determine the range of technologies—including seismic—which may be used in the geotechnical study.

The geotechnical study will initially be in the areas of the current and previous subsidences at Collingwood Park, and will eventually extend to the wider Collingwood Park area.

The geotechnical study will ascertain the cause, extent and likelihood of mine subsidence from past coal mine workings.

The scope and terms of reference for the study will be made public as will the results of the study. It is not going to be rushed as it is important to do a thorough and complete study to determine the level of risk from the old mine workings.

Contact details

Department of Mines and Energy

1800 109 122
www.dme.qld.gov.au

Ipswich City Council

3810 6666
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

Update for Collingwood Park residents

Thursday 26 June 2008

The Department of Mines and Energy's Collingwood Park mine subsidence site office will open at **8 McLaughlin Street Collingwood Park** on *Monday 7 July 2008*.

The office will provide a local point of contact for residents seeking information on the Queensland Government's response to the mine subsidence, a venue for appointments with residents, and a base for technical officers.

Departmental officers and representatives from the Department of Communities will be available at the office from 8.30am–5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

After a reasonable period of operation, the office hours will be reviewed to determine the most effective use of the on-site office to meet the needs of Collingwood Park residents.

 **On-site office to open on 7 July**

Structural reports

The department has begun delivery of structural reports to residents of houses in or near the mine subsidence area in Collingwood Park.

Over 20 reports on houses in the immediate impact area have been hand-delivered to owners, with the remainder expected to be delivered by the end of next week. In some cases follow-up assessments have been carried out and reports supplemented with latest findings. Owners who have received their structural report are asked to read the report thoroughly and then make an appointment with departmental officers to discuss the content and findings of the report and future actions.

It is important to note that further assessments, additional to the initial structural report, may be needed before repairs can be undertaken to damaged houses. The repair process will only begin once there is confidence no further damage will occur.

Purchase of properties

The purchasing process has begun for some properties within the mine subsidence area. The Public Trustee is handling the property purchase process on behalf of government, and purchase prices will be based on pre-mine subsidence valuations provided by two separate valuers.

The Public Trustee will also manage the appointment of licensed builders contracted to conduct the repair works on Collingwood Park houses according to the Building Code of Australia.

Free undermining searches

The department is also about to begin delivering more than 100 undermining searches requested by residents.

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

Along with the results of the searches, residents will 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.

Similarly, structural damage may be the result of expansion and contraction of clay soils, leaking underground pipes, root growth from large trees, shrinkage of hardwood timber frames or poor building practices.

For more information on structural damage and subsidence, refer to the Building Service Authority website:

www.bsa.qld.au/Home/BuildersContractors/TechInfo or phone **1300 272 272**.

Home inspections

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

Requests for inspections for more than 400 homes have already been received, with over 250 homes already visited.

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.
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 \$10 million assistance package, it must be established that the cause of any damage is from mine subsidence from underground mining.

As identified above, there are causes for subsidence and structural damage other than underground mining.

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 well removed from undermining, this may take some time.

The department appreciates the patience that all Collingwood Park residents have displayed while the department attends to those residents in and very near to the subsidence area.

The department will continue to keep residents updated as soon as practically possible as new information comes to hand.