

Update for Collingwood Park residents

Wednesday 7 May 2008

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 three independent valuations of its market value prior to the subsidence.

The proposed assistance package includes:

- paying for any works necessary to stabilise a house or make it safe
- repairs of mining subsidence-related damage where 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.

Inspections by Department of Mines and Energy and Ipswich City Council have currently identified about 20 homes which appear to be damaged and more inspections are planned for this week.

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.

Department of Mines and Energy (freecall)

1800 109 122

The response team will continue to measure the extent and impact of the subsidence. Latest test results show subsidence in the main area has stopped; however monitoring will continue for some time yet.

The Queensland Government is also establishing a taskforce with Ipswich City Council. This taskforce will make further recommendations to Cabinet in the next three months on any other support or assistance for the community.

Telephone contacts

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 counselling service

3280 1777

Lifeline Ipswich

3281 8688

Lifeline 24-hour service

13 11 14