

## Geotechnical study

At the last community information meeting, geotechnical experts outlined the scoping study which is underway. The range of possible technologies under consideration includes:

- photogrammetric surveys to monitor broadscale ground subsidence (photos which measure ground movement)
- geophysical surveys such as resistivity, mini sonic seismic, acoustic emission and downhole geophysical logging to verify extent of mine workings
- drilling using downhole cameras and core samples to check the condition of the workings including the pillars, roof and overburden.

## Contact details

Please do not hesitate to contact our staff at the site office, 8 McLaughlin Street if you have any further enquiries.

### 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

# Update for Collingwood Park residents

Monday 29 September 2008

## Purchase of properties

The State Government is currently in the process of purchasing eight properties that have been damaged by the April mine subsidence incident in Collingwood Park. This number could potentially rise to as many as 10.

The Public Trustee is managing property purchases on behalf of the government and purchase prices are based on pre-subsidence valuations provided by two separate valuers.

## Repairs

DME has appointed the Public Trustee to also oversee the repair work being done to houses damaged by mine subsidence.

The repair timetable for all properties, including those properties that have already received structural inspection reports, will be influenced by any further movement still occurring in the subsidence area and advice from the structural engineer.

The structural engineering inspection reports have been delivered to home owners who have had structural engineering inspections of their property. Advice from the structural engineer states that approximately 30 of these houses will need repair.

Structural inspections are also proceeding on homes just outside the immediate impact area around McLaughlin, Duncan and Moloney Streets. These inspections list any damage and detail specific rectification works that might be required for properties.

An agreement with each owner as to the scope of work needed will be required and the Public Trustee will then oversee the calling of quotes and engagement of licensed building contractors to conduct the work.

Discussions have already proceeded with builders to confirm availability for this work.

## Broader inspection program

The Public Trustee is also expected to contract building inspectors by the end of September to carry out a broader damage inspection program of houses in mining influence constrained areas. These checks are being done in addition to the inspection-by-request program already in place to ensure no property with possible mine subsidence damage is missed.

Participation in the broader inspection program is not compulsory; so you do not have to have an inspection if you do not wish to.

There are about 500 houses that are part of this broader inspection process and we will ensure this proceeds as quickly as possible.

These checks provide an opportunity to discuss any issues you have. It will also make the government aware of any mine subsidence damage and give the building inspectors an opportunity to let the structural engineers know about any significant damage.

The Public Trustee's representative will work side-by-side with a Department of Mines and Energy officer. Using the feedback from the inspections, they will sit down with each owner and explain what's going to happen, agree on timing and nature of repairs and address any queries you may have.

## Inspections outside mining influence zones

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

The department has received requests for home inspections from residents well outside the known undermined area in Collingwood Park.

Officers will respond to these requests for inspection as soon as possible even though many of these homes are well removed from any mining influence. Priority will of course be given to those homes in mining influenced areas.

## Title notations

At the end of June, the Premier announced that the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* would be amended to allow notations on titles about the government's assistance package.

The government is expected to introduce this legislation into Parliament later this year. This legislative amendment puts the government's assistance package into law.

Residents must remember that title notations are voluntary. No home owner will have a title notation forced on them, but even if you choose not to have a title notification, the State Government's assistance package **still applies to your property**.

If you want a notation on your title, stating that the government's guarantee applies to your property, then you will be able to apply for it.

This means that when homes are being bought or sold, this guarantee will give confidence to future homeowners that any potential mine-subsidence damage will be covered.

The government's guarantee is unique. The Insurance Council of Queensland advises there is no insurance for mine subsidence-related damage in Australia. Similarly, if you lived in a flood-prone area there is no automatic guarantee of repair for flood-related damage. In guaranteeing repair for subsidence-related damage, the government's assistance package will assist the long-term recovery of property values in the area.