



EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

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MEDIA RELEASE

From: Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA
Acting Chairman

To: Media

Date: 13 April 2007

INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE AND EXTENT OF LEAD POLLUTION IN THE ESPERANCE AREA

On 4 April 2007, the Legislative Assembly referred the *Inquiry into the Cause and Extent of Lead Pollution in the Esperance Area* to the Education and Health Standing Committee. The Committee for this inquiry is chaired by an opposition member, Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA, has representatives from three major political parties, and includes the local Member for Roe, Dr Graham Jacobs MLA.

The acting Chairman acknowledges the efforts of a number of Government agencies to provide information to local Esperance people at the '*Lead in Esperance Public Information Day*' on 14 April 2007. The acting Chairman would like to make it clear, however, that as an independent Committee it is not directly involved in the Public Information Day and he notes that some of the Government agencies involved will in fact be the subject of the Committee's current investigations.

The Committee has invited submissions on its inquiry terms of reference from interested members of the public. The current deadline for submissions is Thursday, 26 April 2007. The reason for the short timeframe is because the Committee is hoping to be as well informed of the issues as possible prior to holding public hearings in Esperance on 2 and 3 May 2007. The Committee has requested that Magellan Metals Pty Ltd and the Esperance Port Authority give evidence at those hearings, and will also be extending invitations to as many Esperance-based people to speak to their written submissions as time allows.

The deadline for submissions is not strict, but if any Esperance-based people would like the opportunity to be considered by the Committee to appear at the public hearings on 2 or 3 May 2007, submissions should be made available to the Committee no later than by close of business Thursday, 26 April 2007.

The Committee will also be holding public hearings in Perth on Monday, 30 April 2007, and has requested that the Department of Health; the Department of Environment and Conservation; and the Department for Planning and Infrastructure give evidence.

Full membership of the Committee for this Inquiry is as follows:

Member for Dawesville (Hon Dr Kim Hames, MLA), Acting Chairman; Member for Central Kimberley-Pilbara (Hon Tom Stephens, MLA); the Member for Wanneroo (Mrs Dianne Guise, MLA); the Member for Bassendean (Mr Martin Whitely, MLA); the Member for Wagin (Mr Terry Waldron, MLA); the Member for Roe (Dr Graham Jacobs); and the Member for Peel (Mr Paul Papalia).