

28 March 2007

Media Release

The Esperance Port Authority will offer to provide a water filter to local residents whose water tanks showed lead levels above Health Department guidelines following recent testing.

The Authority said the offer was a gesture of goodwill to the community.

Chairman Jim Matijasevich also said the Authority refuted allegations by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) that it had breached its licence.

“The Authority also believes that it is too early to tell the cause of the elevated nickel and lead levels found in the vicinity of a stormwater outlet pipe beneath berth one at the Port,” Mr Matijasevich.

“The Port Authority categorically denies that any heavy metals were deliberately washed into the ocean during loading operations.”

DEC investigators took a number of samples from a slope directly beneath the stormwater drain outlet pipe beneath berth one that showed elevated levels and agreed that the results were not representative for the entire Port area.

Consultants employed by the Port have been monitoring the seabed alongside the berths, the turning basin and outside the Port since 2002.

Ends

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