

## **CONFIDENTIAL REPORT**

**12.7 REPORT TITLE: CALLINGTON OVAL**

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**AUTHOR'S TITLE: ENVIRONMENT RESOURCE OFFICER**

**REPRESENTORS: N/A**

**FILE NUMBER: 42/020/037**

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. **SITE PLAN**

2. **DRAFT REPORT 'PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF HEAVY METAL/METALLOID CONCENTRATIONS AT CALLINGTON OVAL AND MT BARKER WASTE DUMP'**
3. **LETTER 'SITE CONTAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT – CALLINGTON OVAL CALLINGTON'**

**DEPARTMENT: STRATEGY**

**ACTING DEPARTMENT**

**MANAGER: KYLIE WESTON**

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### **PURPOSE**

To update Council of the status of the mining waste slag heap contained within the Callington oval grounds and to seek Council endorsement of a strategy to further investigate contamination of this site.

The location of the slag heap relative to the remainder of the Callington Oval is shown in attachment 1.

The nature of the further investigations needing to be pursued are outlined in the brief submission prepared by Soil and Groundwater Consulting as per attachment 3.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That pursuant to Section 90(2) and 90(3) of the Local Government Act 1999 the District Council of Mount Barker orders that the public be excluded from attendance at the meeting to consider in confidence matters regarding

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information the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

2. That the Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Development and Technical Services, Acting General Manager Strategy, General Manager Corporate Services, Manager Community Services, Manager Governance and Policy and the Minute Secretary be permitted to remain in the room.
3. That Council pursue further testing and evaluation of the site to determine the appropriate course of action for its management and/or remediation.
4. That Council allocate \$5000 for further testing and evaluation of the site. Funding to be sourced from the Callington oval maintenance budget and other associated budget lines.
5. That the Council orders pursuant to Section 91(7), (8) and (9) of the Local Government Act 1999 that information relating to this item be kept confidential until ~~1 September 2004~~. (Refer to Item 100.1 18 May 2004). – released 13 September 2005
6. That subject to Section 90 of the Local Government Act 1999 as amended, the public be readmitted to the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

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### **BACKGROUND**

Council officers became aware of issues associated with the watering of Callington oval late last year. This was discussed in a report to Council on December 16, 2002.

At the same time as the oval watering issue came to the attention of Council, the issue of the slag heap from past mining operations located on the site was raised by the Oval Committee. Testing of the slag heap was undertaken in March 2003 with the results received in late May 2003. Results of the testing revealed some elements of concern that need to be assessed and managed.

### **DISCUSSION**

The testing undertaken in March 2003 was of a preliminary nature only and was not meant to provide a comprehensive assessment of the site. Rather the testing was intended to give Council an indication of the status of the site and further work that needed to be done.

The testing revealed elevated levels of arsenic and copper (see report attached (2)). Soil analysis taken was compared against the Ecological Investigation Levels (EILs) as detailed in the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination)

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Measure (1999). The levels recorded for arsenic were 4 times higher than the EIL trigger level. The levels recorded for copper were 50 times higher than the EIL trigger.

Arsenic represents a serious health and environmental risk. Council has been advised by Mr Andrew Nunn of Soil and Groundwater Consulting that this recording is on the low end of the scale in terms of risk but that further testing and a risk assessment should be undertaken.

While copper is considered to not have significant health implications it is considered to be eco-toxic and thus represents a hazard to the surrounding environment. The potential for the copper contained within the slag heap to have a deleterious effect on the surrounding environment (eg the groundwater) should be further investigated.

Council officers have met with representatives of the Oval Committee to discuss the slag heap and the possibility to level the heap and relocate the netball courts to cover the site. Discussions are continuing between the Community Development and Recreation Officer and the Manager Horticultural Services regarding this issue. The covering of the slag heap by a new netball court could be a technically feasible way to address the contamination issue as it would prevent air and soil borne pollutants and reduce the risk of groundwater contamination. Alternatively, the slag heap could be removed if this was deemed to be necessary.

To gain a more comprehensive understanding of the work needed to further assess the site, Council staff requested that Mr Andrew Nunn of Soil and Groundwater Consulting review the data collected and advise of further assessment needed. Advice was received on August 3 with recommendations that include a more comprehensive testing program involving bore holes, laboratory analysis, site plan and detailed report in accordance with NEPM requirements. Field testing and reporting would take approximately 4 weeks to complete.

A meeting in Callington has been arranged for 13 August with the EPA to discuss a development issue on land that is known to be contaminated. The oval slag heap will also be discussed at this meeting as will the possible need for an environmental management plan to be developed for Callington township that can provide for the ongoing assessment and management of contamination issues relating to past mining activities.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **1. Financial/budget**

The cost of the further assessment required at this site has been covered through existing budget lines.

### **2. Legal**

Council has a Common Law duty of care to assess and manage contaminated sites as necessary. Council's Contaminated Land Policy details how Council undertakes to manage community land known to be contaminated.

### **3. Staffing/Work Plans**

Assessment and project management for contaminated sites is undertaken by the Environment Resource Officer.

### **4. Environmental**

See main report.

### **5. Social**

The Callington Oval and grounds are an important asset for the Callington community. Council needs to provide assurance that this issue is being addressed at the necessary level and all scenarios and management options are being considered. The oval committee are supportive of incorporating the slag heap in future development at the site.

### **6. Strategic Plans**

Council undertakes to survey contaminated sites in the Strategic Plan.

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

### **1. Customer Needs Analysis**

Council officers are involved in full and open discussions with representatives of the Callington Oval Committee in regard to this issue.

### **2. Promotion/Communications**

Once a site assessment has been undertaken Council will engage with the wider Callington community with regard to future management options for the site.