



The hatched areas mark the zone within which soil lead and cadmium levels exceed the Australian residential Health Investigation Level. Dust from the smelter has historically landed beyond this zone but metal concentrations are lower.

Studies have revealed no health impacts in the community. Following the simple precautionary measures contained in this brochure can further lower exposure risk. The precautionary measures are most relevant to residents of the hatched areas.



CONTACT DETAILS

This Bulletin is issued by the Director, Environment Protection Authority and the Director of Public Health.

For more information please phone the Department of Health and Human Services on 1800 671 738 or the Environment Protection Authority on 6233 6518.

A Background Document which includes references to the studies conducted to date is available at www.environment.tas.gov.au

Managing soil contamination in parts of Lutana and Hobart's eastern shore

May 2009

This Bulletin replaces "Reducing your exposure to soil contamination in parts of Lutana and parts of the eastern shore" June 1999



Background

Past activities at the Hobart zinc works resulted in contaminated dust being blown from the site to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Dust monitoring at the site and in the community confirms that this is no longer a problem.

Studies conducted in the 1990s and in 2008 confirmed that elevated levels of zinc, lead and cadmium are present in surface soils in parts of Lutana, Geilston Bay and Lindisfarne as a result of past dust emissions.

Independent health investigations in 1991 and 1997 clearly showed residents in the affected areas had not taken these contaminants into their bodies. Levels of urinary-cadmium and blood-lead were no higher in residents of the affected areas than the general community.

Hence, the risks of any health effects from existing contamination are considered to be low. Nevertheless, the Director of Public Health continues to recommend precautionary measures that can further reduce this risk. These are most relevant to residents living within the hatched area of the map shown in this brochure.

Some dust has blown beyond the hatched area on the map, however, the levels of soil contamination outside the hatched zone pose a negligible risk to health.

What should I do?

Hygiene

Simple hygiene measures can help minimise the opportunity for contaminated soil to be consumed, particularly by young children e.g. by playing on bare dirt then putting hands in their mouth.

- **Cover bare soil with grass, mulch or hard surfacing (e.g. pavers)** – *this is most important as it will lessen the need for the following extra precautions.*
- Wash soil and dust from children's hands frequently.
- Wash soil and dust from children's toys and the family dog frequently.
- Keep your home dust free through regular cleaning of window sills etc.
- Thoroughly wash dust and soil from home-grown fruit and vegetables before eating. This is good practice whatever the source of produce.



Gardening

- Home-grown vegetables, particularly leafy greens, are best grown in raised beds with new clean soil at least 30cm in depth.

Other factors

- A nutritious diet that includes adequate calcium and iron will minimise children's lead absorption.
- If using a water tank, install a 'first flush diverter.'
- Lead is also present in lead-based paints. Therefore it is recommended that further advice is sought before renovating older homes.

Contact details and sources of additional information are provided on the back of this bulletin.

If you have any personal health-related concerns, see your GP.