



27 March 2012

To the householder
«AddressBlock»

Dear Sir or Madam,

**RE: Raw test results from soil samples and x-ray fluorescence testing:
«Location_Address»**

Please find enclosed the raw test results from the recent testing conducted on your property.

With your permission, our contractors Tonkin and Taylor have taken several soil samples at surface, 500mm and 1000mm, as well as the use of an x-ray fluorescence (XRF) to take further readings.

The results are effectively straight from the lab and have not been calibrated or contextualised with any background analysis, so as the project progresses some of the results will be adjusted after further analysis.

There are some key themes that have emerged from the raw data:

- Arsenic levels are elevated as expected
- A majority of the eastern properties have high levels of lead present in the soil
- Some properties have elevated levels of other heavy metals, like Antimony and Zinc

The Waikato District Health Board, upon reviewing the raw data, have advised us that the current health advice remains the same for these levels of arsenic, lead and other heavy metals in the soil, so please ensure you and your family are implementing this advice. We have included the health messages in this correspondence as a reminder to all residents.

It is important to understand that the contamination is suspended in the soil and ingestion is the primary pathway to absorb these contaminants. Reducing risk is about reducing your exposure to, and the consumption of, contaminated soil.

We have also included a glossary of terms to help you analyse your results and some new answers to some common questions about lead.

You will receive your final property report in July 2012, which will outline the mitigation and management plan for your property.

If you have any questions about these results, please feel free to contact us using the contact details on the following pages; we are more than happy to answer your questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BD' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Day, Communications Manager
On behalf of the Moanataiari project team

Next steps

- 'Western properties' at Moanataiari will receive their data in late April.
- The project is continuing as fast as it can and is on track. Residents and homeowners will receive their final reports in July 2012, which will outline the mitigation and management recommendations. In the meantime, please put in place the health advice.

Stay in touch

- Please feel free to come to the weekly Community Forum meetings held every Thursday at 3.30pm at the Moanataiari Primary School. Bring your questions and we'll make sure they're answered.
- Please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/moanataiari for more information and to read the project updates.
- Subscribe to our project eNewsletter by emailing ben.day@tcdc.govt.nz with your email address (we send out weekly updates).

Health advice

While waiting for the full report on soil testing in Moanataiari, the Ministry of Health advises people who may be concerned about protecting their health, to follow the advice in its pamphlet: *Arsenic and Your Health*. A copy can be found at a Thames Coromandel District Council Service Centre or online at: <http://www.health.govt.nz/yourhealth-topics/arsenic-and-health>

The pamphlet includes specific advice for people who may live on mine tailings that may be high in arsenic, and this advice also applies to lead.

The Ministry of Health advises residents to:

- take care with personal hygiene (i.e. hand washing after handling soil);
- make sure children don't eat or play in soil;
- remove footwear before going indoors to avoid carrying soil dust indoors - particularly for households with very young children;
- cover soil (e.g. grassing, paving, gravel) to reduce dust and direct access by young children;
- not to eat home grown fruit and vegetables, especially young children, until further quantification of the contamination is available and the risk can be assessed, unless it is known that the garden soil is clean fill.
- don't be concerned about the drinking water supply, it is separate (and safe);
- as always, if unwell for any reason, see your doctor.

Glossary of terms

- As = Arsenic
- Cd = Cadmium
- Cr = Chromium
- Cu = Copper
- Hg = Mercury
- Ni = Nickel
- Pb = Lead
- Zn = Zinc
- Sb = Antimony
- Ti = Thallium
- <LOD = below Limit of Detection
- Mg/kg =Micrograms per kilo (parts per million)
- Acceptance criteria = This refers to any national standards or guidelines for that element
- Level of detection = this is the lowest reading the laboratory equipment can detect
- Sample locations = location where the sample was taken (maps will be provided in July with the final reports)
- "As Error, Cd error etc" = margin of error
- Laboratory results = results from soil samples analysed offsite at a lab
- Portable XRF results = results from the XRF machine
- QA results = results that have been checked (Quality Assurance), which gives a percentage difference between lab results and XRF results. This will be further expanded on when the data is analysed.

Frequently asked questions

What is x-ray fluorescence (XRF)?

This is a hand-held electronic device that can measure the levels of various elements in the soil without having to take samples to the lab for analysis.

What do the soil results mean for the greater project?

The results reconfirm the subdivision has high levels of contamination, mainly from naturally occurring minerals. The project plan remains in place and on track.

Was lead used in gold processing?

Our research indicates that lead was not used in the processing of gold at Moanataiari.

Is the presence of lead a natural phenomenon?

We can't be 100% certain yet about where the lead has come from, but early indications are that some of it could be naturally occurring given how widespread it is and the patterns that exist with other minerals. Some samples could be from man-made activities like the use of lead paint.

Past mining activity may also be a contributory factor. We expect that the source of contamination will be identified in the course of the investigation. However, our current focus is on managing risk to human health. We will do more work to get the conclusive answer to this question.

Key contacts

Thames-Coromandel District Council

For general enquiries: Sam Napia, Group Manager Environmental Services, Ph: 07-868-0253
sam.napia@tcdc.govt.nz or please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/moanataiari

For general and media enquiries: Benjamin Day, Communications Manager; Ph: 07-868-0253
ben.day@tcdc.govt.nz or please visit www.tcdc.govt.nz/moanataiari

Waikato Regional Council

Soil testing and science related enquiries: Dominique Noiton, Programme Manager Water, Air & Waste 0800 800 401

Media enquiries: Stephen Ward, Senior Communications Advisor, Ph: 07 859 0782,
Stephen.Ward@waikatoregion.govt.nz

Waikato District Health Board

General enquiries: For general public health enquiries please contact the Health Protection Unit on 07 838 2569

Personal health enquiries: Please contact your local GP or Medical Centre; they have been briefed by the District Health Board and will be able to assist you with personal health enquiries.