



## Former Cresco Site – Bayswater

# COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN

December 2003

## Groundwater Interception

Continuing the clean-up of the former Cresco site in Railway Parade, Bayswater, CSBP is about to turn on the compressor to pump and control the contaminated groundwater flow from the site.

The pumps will remain on during the final remediation phase, which is scheduled to continue for at least five years.

CSBP is in the process of seeking regulatory approval to complete this final remediation work.

Before the land can be developed for other uses, waste material and shallow groundwater contaminated by this material, must be dealt with.

CSBP's Public Environmental Review, which presents the remediation options for the site, will soon be available for public comment.

In September, the Environmental Protection Authority gave approval for CSBP to implement a practical process to control the groundwater flow from the site.



Drilling the extraction bores on the site

Drilling and bore installation was completed in November and final infrastructure work is almost finished.

Thirty-three extraction bores on the south-west corner of the site will pump water from the superficial aquifer 10m below the surface.

The water will then be pumped into two trenches towards the middle of the site.

Here, the water will infiltrate into the ground and will eventually end up back at the bores, to be pumped back to the trenches again.

CSBP Environmental Advisor Adam Speers said the pumping and reinfiltration would continue through the remediation.

"The water treatment operation will be the last thing to be turned off," Adam said.



The line of bores

## Brief History

The fertiliser manufacturing plant on this site was originally built by South Australian fertiliser manufacturing company, Cresco Fertilizers Limited, in 1928.

Part of the plant produced sulphuric acid, which was then mixed with phosphate rock to create the fertiliser known as 'superphosphate'.

CSBP purchased Cresco's WA operations in 1970, continuing to manufacture superphosphate on the premises as well as also producing hydrochloric acid and a range of small volume chemicals.

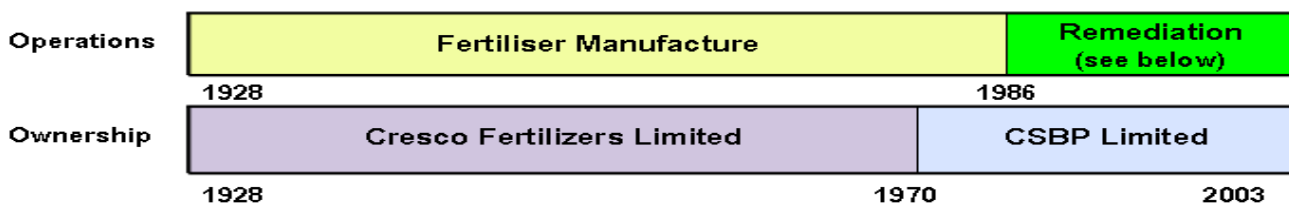
Operations at the site were reduced over time from the mid 1970s.

To the best of CSBP's knowledge and belief, all operations at the Cresco site conducted by Cresco (prior to CSBP acquiring Cresco in WA) and by CSBP (post the Cresco acquisition in 1970), were conducted lawfully and met all regulatory requirements applicable to those operations.

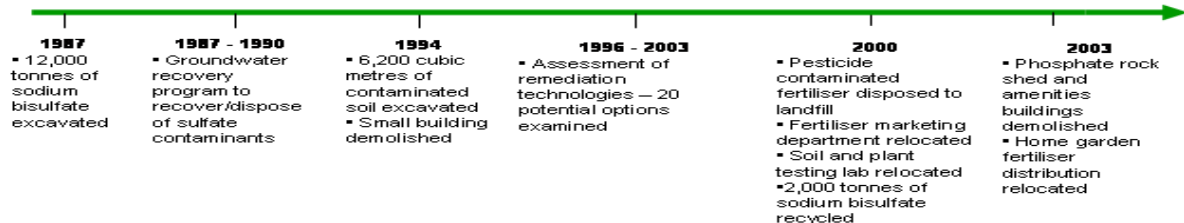
What remains at the Cresco site today is the legacy of historical manufacturing practices.

Those practices have left the site contaminated - CSBP is cleaning it up.

## Cresco Site History



### Remediation Detail



## Demolition of buildings

Demolition of the phosphate rock shed started in July 2003 with the removal and safe disposal of all the structural steel-work.

Once this task was completed, the concrete was removed – which involved the breaking up, contamination testing, and safe disposal to a Class 3 tip cell.

The area was then levelled and mulched. No soil was removed from the former Cresco site but was redistributed to make the site safe and aesthetically pleasing.

During the work it was decided to demolish some of the satellite buildings that posed a security and vandalism problem within the site.

All the works, which were completed in November, were carried out in a safe and environmentally acceptable method.

## Public Environmental Review

CSBP is aiming to submit its Public Environmental Review (PER) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in January 2004.

The EPA will then release the PER for public comment for a period of eight weeks.

Following this, the EPA will release its own bulletin / recommendations for four weeks of public comment and then the Minister for the Environment will make a decision on the project.

The major issues outlined in the PER are soil contamination, groundwater, asbestos, flora and fauna, traffic, drainage and consultation.

To address the issue of soil contamination, CSBP is investigating ways of separating the iron cinders from the clean sand. The objective is to produce clean sand and usable iron ore and the constraints include water consumption, water treatment, water disposal and economics.

The major issue with groundwater is the off-site movement of contaminated water. To date, no major impact off the site has been defined. The extraction and re-infiltration process has started and treatment systems are still being trialled and reviewed.

Asbestos is still contained in some of the buildings on site. Although no asbestos has been found

around the site, past disposal may have occurred on the site, so CSBP will review the situation as soil removal proceeds. Asbestos will be dealt with by trained operators, wrapped and disposed to licensed landfill. Buildings containing asbestos will not be imploded or felled.

Qualified consultants have undertaken flora and fauna site surveys and no rare or endangered species have been found. Seeds are being collected from endemic species for future planting.

Because there will be a relatively small workforce, the remediation traffic and heavy truck traffic will not be significant and a non-residential route to Tonkin Highway will be established. Night-time work will be limited due to noise regulations on site.

Regional drainage (off Wick Street) will be continued after remediation and may be piped. The drainage plan for the eventual development will be decided later but will comply with City of Bayswater and the WA Planning Commission regulations.

Community consultation will continue throughout the PER process and remediation and an information bulletin will be distributed every few months. CSBP will continue close consultation with City of Bayswater and Town of Bassendean.

### For More Information

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