

## NARANGBA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT



### Community Update 1 – May 2007

The Community Update has been developed to provide information to the local community about the Health Impact Assessment study being conducted for the Narangba Industrial Estate. Further community updates will be delivered throughout the year and will be available on Queensland Health website [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au).

### Narangba Industrial Estate

The Narangba Industrial Estate (NIE) was established in the late 1960s to provide for the needs of noxious and hazardous industries, which are generally difficult to locate, but which provide essential goods and services. Businesses on the estate employ hundreds of local workers and contribute millions annually to the Queensland economy.

The NIE contains a wide variety of industries including chemical manufacturers, tanneries, waste disposal facilities, crude oil storage, concrete batching plants, timber chemical treatment plants and an irradiation plant. Industries on the site that are required to be licensed are done so by the Caboolture Shire Council and the Environmental Protection Agency.

### Background

In August 2005 a fire occurred at the Binary Industries pesticide manufacturing and storage plant located in the Narangba Industrial Estate. The fire burned for six hours and caused contamination to the surrounding environment, including contaminated water runoff into Saltwater Creek.

The surrounding community has raised concerns over the potential health impacts that may be experienced as a result of the Binary Industries fire and the operation of the estate. In response to these concerns, the State Government established the Narangba Health Action Plan. The plan outlines a number of steps to address community concerns about both the fire and the estate. One of the steps in the plan involves conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

The HIA commenced in late 2006 and will be completed by late 2007.

### Community Reference Group

A Community Reference Group (CRG) has been formed to oversee the development and implementation of the Health Impact Assessment and to make recommendations to the State Government in response to its findings.

In September 2006, Queensland Health invited residents of Deception Bay, Narangba and Mango Hill to register their interest in being part of the CRG. The CRG includes 17 representatives from a broad range of backgrounds including community, business, industry and local and state government. The CRG meets regularly and is supported by an independent facilitator.

### Health Impact Assessment

The Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a method used throughout the world to estimate both the positive and negative effects on the health of a certain population under specific conditions and at a specific time. In the case of Narangba, the HIA

will be used to estimate the effects of the Narangba Industrial Estate on the health of the surrounding population through a series of independent studies which are being conducted from May to September 2007.

The HIA will also investigate and analyse the existing and future health impacts of the estate on the health of the surrounding population. It will provide evidence-based information to help the Community Reference Group to prepare recommendations to the State Government about how any impacts should be addressed.

### Studies

To complete the HIA, a number of separate studies will be undertaken. Generally HIAs consider a range of factors and can include the development of a community profile and access to community services, in addition to environmental (eg. air, noise, water), health, socio-economic, lifestyle and behavioural impacts.

### Current Progress

The Community Reference Group (CRG) commenced in October 2006 and has met 10 times. Since its formation it has identified the types of studies to be completed as part of the Health Impact Assessment.

A range of environmental studies have been commissioned and further details about these will be provided through regular community updates.

The CRG has also commissioned an independent review of the August 2005 Binary Industries fire and

a subsequent fire on the estate in December 2006 at Zalam Australasia. This review will be completed by August 2007.

The CRG has determined the type of data that will be collected through a community survey. The survey will include questions about general health and quality of life. It will be conducted using recognised methodology and the results will be compared to other communities to identify any unusual trends. The boundaries and methodology for the community survey are currently being finalised.

The community survey will be undertaken towards the middle of 2007. Residents who receive the survey are encouraged to participate.

### Further Information

Further information on the Narangba Industrial Estate Health Impact Assessment can be obtained by contacting 1800 509 220 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or visiting Queensland Health's website [www.health.qld.gov.au](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)

To lodge a complaint about the Narangba Industrial Estate contact:

Environmental Protection Agency – 1300 130 372  
Caboolture Shire Council – 5420 0100  
Pine Rivers Shire Council – 3480 6666

If you are uncertain who to contact, you are advised to contact your local council in the first instance.

If you have any concerns about your own health, contact your local general practitioner.