

Findings and recommendations

Overall, the study found that:

- there was no evidence to indicate that the community experienced any adverse health effects as a result of close proximity to the Narangba Industrial Estate
- there was no evidence of any risks to the community's health or adverse impacts on air quality and local property values
- the emergency framework for Queensland used to manage the 2005 Binary Industries fire was adequate
- there was no evidence to support community concerns about property values—in fact the study found that there was positive growth in property values in the area.



A total of 17 recommendations were made by the community reference group relating to future emissions control, future land use planning, emergency planning and emergency response arrangements. Key recommendations included that:

- while no significant health risk was found, further assessment by the relevant regulatory authority into the potential risk of chromium is recommended
- while the estate met the requirements of the odour guidelines, a continued effort should be made to manage odour emissions for the benefit of the community
- the co-location of industry and community, and the proximity of the Narangba Industrial Estate to residential properties need to be considered further in future land use planning
- the location and management of high impact, noxious and hazardous industry needs to be considered in future land use planning
- while the emergency framework for Queensland used to manage the 2005 Binary Industries fire was adequate, a number of recommendations outlined by the CRG be considered by government in future planning and decision making.

Moving forward

The Health Impact Assessment—Narangba Industrial Estate has been presented to State and Local Government agencies for implementation as appropriate.

Find out more

A copy of the full report is available on the department's website.
www.health.qld.gov.au/narangbahia

Queensland Health

Health Impact Assessment

Narangba Industrial Estate

Summary of findings

May 2011

Tomorrow's Queensland:
strong, green, smart, healthy and fair



This brochure summarises the findings of the Narangba Industrial Estate Health Impact Assessment. This is the fifth and final community update. The project was conducted by Queensland Health on behalf of the community through input from the community reference group. The project was established in November 2006 to gain a better understanding of the potential for health impacts from operations within the Narangba Industrial Estate.

Background

Industrial operations at the Narangba Industrial estate have long provided benefits to Brisbane residents and the wider Queensland community. In operation since the 1960s, the estate provides a foundation for industrial and other associated businesses to grow—leading to job creation, economic growth and export opportunities for Queensland.

The estate, located around 35 kilometres north of Brisbane, is somewhat unique when compared to newer Queensland industrial estates, due to its proximity to residential areas. Recently, introduced planning legislation requires new industrial estates with similar operations to Narangba to be separated from residential urban areas. However, population growth in Brisbane and urban spread in Narangba since its establishment have resulted in the estate's businesses and residential properties existing side by side.

The local community has raised concerns about the potential effects operations within the Narangba Industrial Estate could have on residents' health. In response to these concerns the Queensland Government established a community reference group—comprising local community representatives and government agencies—to oversee the completion of a study into the potential health risks and land concerns for residents living near the estate, and to make recommendations to government.

Issue	Scope	Data gathering/analysis activities conducted
Air quality	To ascertain the air quality of the surrounding area, taking into account particular processes being conducted in the estate. This included assessment of hazardous emissions and odours.	<p>Air studies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ambient air monitoring • Carbonyl air monitoring • Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH) air monitoring • canister air sampling • stack emission monitoring • area source monitoring • Narangba Industrial Estate ambient odour survey • air quality impact assessment for the estate. <p>All of these studies were conducted to inform the assessment of health risks.</p>
Current health status	To assess whether data from existing registries and hospital records reveal any anomalies on morbidity and mortality that warrant further investigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data analysis from existing data sets • Narangba Industrial Estate health risk perception survey.
Binary Industries fire	To assess whether emergency/disaster planning processes are adequate to ensure the community is protected from risks/hazards associated with emergency situations or incidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent post-event review of two chemical fires for the Narangba Industrial Estate Health Impact Assessment.

What the study involved

The Narangba Industrial Estate health Impact Assessment focused on key concerns raised by local residents including:

- air quality and odour
- risks to community health and current health status
- the emergency response to the 2005 Binary Industries fire
- how previous industrial land use decisions could assist with future planning.

How the data was collected

The information was collected and analysed by independent experts with support provided to the community reference group by an independent technical advisor and independent facilitator. This approach was used to ensure fairness, transparency and measureable outcomes.

Outcomes

The outcomes sought were two fold, including to:

- 1 establish an understanding of the current situation and identify potential risks to the community, including air emissions, impacts on human health and whether the community has experienced adverse health effects
- 2 identify measures to assist the government with future industrial land planning decisions, including emergency response procedures, industrial and land planning legislation and guidelines.

