

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## DAILY HANSARD

### Wednesday, 17 August 2016

#### **Level Crossing Removal Authority**

**Mr DAVIS** (Southern Metropolitan)—My matter for the adjournment this evening is for the attention of the minister responsible for WorkCover, and it relates to independent soil testing that has occurred on the sky rail construction site. It shows toxic levels of lead, or what appear to be toxic levels, as a result of independent testing that has been done. In some cases the levels appear to be up to 160 times the deemed safe level. Safe soil has natural lead residues of up to 100 parts per million, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency recommends that people have blood tests if exposed to levels above 400 parts per million. Testing on soil around the construction site of the sky rail by the firm XRF shows in some spots 7000 parts per million, and indeed is showing in some places up to 16 000 parts per million.

Now this occurs along the sky rail areas where there are six individual gantry sites, along the line between Grange Road and Poath Road. Clearly legacy powerline structures are coated in thick, dark grey lead paint. As the paint wears, rainwater carries it potentially into the soil, and over decades this has leached quite some distance.

Workers moving around the site without wearing relevant safety equipment may well be exposed to significant lead levels. This can also be spread to nearby playgrounds or parkland, or individual houses nearby. There is one Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) video that shows workers smashing lead-contaminated legacy powerline gantries, and they do not appear to have any understanding, from that video, of the toxic hazard that is involved. Now of course this sky rail is being built without a proper environment effects statement process, or even the stripped-down process that could have occurred under other acts. The project is being pushed forward without community support, and it is a project that nobody voted for. There is obviously tree and other destruction occurring, but this specific one is a matter of interest to the minister responsible for WorkCover because it reflects industrial safety issues and the safety of the workers involved and also the potential safety of the community. So I would ask the minister responsible for WorkCover or his agencies, or both, to investigate this closely, to report back to this Parliament and to bring the cowboys at the LXRA into line.