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INQUIRY INTO INCH STREET SCARE FOUND ...

No mustard gas; it was benzene

Lithgow Council has been told that a substance leaking from a World War II shell casing at a Lithgow recycling facility was not mustard gas but a mixture of benzene —

found in petroleum products — and water.

The substance was found to be leaking when the shells, which had originally been part of chemical

warfare ordnance stored at Marrangaroo Army Base during the wartime, were taken to the premises of Cooke's Scrap Metals to be cut up.

The concern that the substance could be deadly mustard gas residue led to a full scale emergency operation and the biggest

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