

# Neutral Bay Public School upgrade

Works notification | 31 July 2023

The upgrade of Neutral Bay Public School has been funded to deliver seven new flexible learning spaces and the refurbishment of 12 existing learning spaces. The project will also deliver a new library, canteen, student amenities, administration/staff facilities and storage rooms. Improvements to the school's out of hours care facilities and play spaces will also be provided.

## Site remediation works

During previous site investigations, an asbestos-containing fragment was identified in a location within the current construction site. While further testing did not find any other asbestos fragments in the surrounding soil, an independent hygienist recommended that the soil in this area be removed from site as an added precaution.

Remediation works were undertaken in the area on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 July 2023.

During these works several additional fragments of asbestos containing material were identified. As a precaution, the independent hygienist has recommended that the existing soil across the remainder of the construction site be removed with safety measures and monitoring in place to ensure there is no risk to students, staff or the local community.

The additional remediation works are expected to take approximately four weeks and will take place between Monday 7 August and 2 September 2023.

The work will be undertaken in strict accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations, the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan, and the site-specific remediation action plan. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by occupational hygienists. It will take place in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Safety measures will include dust and air monitoring, continual water misting of the area. The work zone is separated from the operational school area by construction hoarding, and all truck loads will be covered when exiting the site.

Following the removal of the soil, the area will be inspected by the independent hygienist to ensure it has been fully remediated, and a clearance certificate provided before construction continues.

## Working hours

All construction work will take place during approved construction hours of:

- 7 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- 8 am to 1 pm, Saturday.

No work will take place on Sundays or public holidays unless otherwise notified.



## Frequently asked questions

### Why is this work being undertaken during school hours?

The Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan allows for the excavation of soil containing asbestos containing material during school hours when this is unavoidable due to the large volume of soil required to be removed. The department's Asbestos Management Plan requires that there are dust suppression measures in place, a remediation action plan has been prepared, and an independent hygienist has advised that it is unlikely that the minimum detection limit of air monitoring will be exceeded (0.01fibres/ml).

School Infrastructure NSW has engaged their own hygienist to review the site remediation action plan, including the proposed safety measures such as air monitoring, dust monitoring and water misting to suppress dust, and removal of excavated soil from the construction site to a licensed waste disposal facility. The hygienist has endorsed this approach and advised that the work is safe to be undertaken during school hours.

### Why will this work take four weeks?

As a precaution, trucks removing soil from the site will not leave or enter the site during school pick-up and drop off times. This limits the amount of time available to remove soil from site.

We investigated extending work hours on weekends to expedite this work. However, the licensed waste facilities close at 1pm on Saturdays and are also closed on Sundays. This means, we are unable to shorten the duration of works by working beyond our current approved construction hours.

### Will asbestos containing material be stored on site?

No. All excavated material will immediately be removed from site.

### Is there likely to be other finds of asbestos in the construction area?

Prior site investigations indicates that there is a low risk of other finds in the area. However, as a precaution we have decided to remediate the whole site.

### Is it safe to send students to school?

Yes. The independent hygienist has endorsed the remediation action plan and advised the work is safe to be undertaken during normal construction hours.

