

Newcastle East Public School

Works notification

4 September 2020

Update on work at Newcastle East Public School

To keep the community informed during ongoing construction and remediation work, we will continue to produce weekly updates. The notification will provide both a weekly look ahead of work and confirm the upcoming weekend works.

Work this weekend

As advised in our works notification on 3 September 2020, during the refurbishment works at Newcastle East Public School, materials were found in grounds beneath the subfloor in Block A (the heritage building) that are suspected to contain asbestos. The material has been confirmed as bonded asbestos which means it is attached to other material such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

The material is scheduled to be remediated this weekend on Saturday 5 September 2020 and Sunday 6 September 2020. All asbestos containing material will be removed outside of school hours. Please refer to the attached notification for additional information.

Playground Upgrade

Between Monday 7 September 2020 and Sunday 13 September 2020 work will include:

- Stormwater improvement works including excavation of soil and installing new pits and pipes
- Finishing piling work for new retaining wall including drilling holes and pouring concrete
- Removal of contaminated soil and importing of clean fill
- Remediation of existing garden beds around the school including placing new soil and mulch

Within the construction site movement of plant and equipment will be minimised as much possible during school hours and will be restricted to areas that are currently encapsulated. Continual air monitoring will be in place during the work. No contaminated soil will be removed during school hours.

Progress Update

Works are progressing well with approximately 70% of the site now encapsulated with a geo-fabric layer and new clean fill. Over the coming weeks the remainder of the site will be fully encapsulated as the stockpile and demountable are removed from the site.

Managing contaminated soils (ongoing weekend work)

Weekend work causing disturbance to contaminated material will continue to take place during the upgrade of the playground. The hours of work for the next two weekends include:

- Saturday 5 September 2020 and Sunday 6 September 2020 between 8.00am to 5.00pm
- Saturday 12 September 2020 and Sunday 13 September 2020 between 8.00am to 5.00pm

This coming weekend work will continue on the remediation of existing garden beds around the school and stormwater activities. An independent hygienist will be on site during any remediation activities including excavation of contaminated materials.

Air monitors will continue to be in place during the work. The carting of material off site will be done over weekends and during school holidays as required. At times, the material will also need to be temporarily stockpiled within the construction site and encapsulated with plastic sheeting bound down by weights.

The work will be done in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and SafeWork NSW regulations. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos removalist and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Temporary closure of footpaths on Tyrrell and Brown Street – From Saturday 5 September

On Saturday 5 September and Sunday 6 September 2020, remediation of the existing gardens beds around the school will require a temporary closure of the adjacent footpaths on Brown Street and Tyrrell Street to enable an exclusion zone to be established around the work area.

Refurbishment of block A (heritage building)

Work is now underway on the additional refurbishment to block A. The contractor will continue internal painting and carpentry works. These works will not impact on the operations of the school.

Access to the school during weekend works

It is Department of Education Policy that only essential personnel are onsite during any remediation works. We remind the community that no access to the school is permitted during the weekend remediation work. This includes the new basketball court.

Hours of work

In line with the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – _Construction Work Days) Order 2020, School Infrastructure NSW construction sites can now operate on weekends and public holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is to allow workers to maintain social distancing while on construction sites by distributing building work across the entire week.

Works will typically take place from 7:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday and from 8:00am to 5:00pm Saturdays and Sundays, unless otherwise notified.

Keeping you updated

The health, safety, and well-being of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Please be assured that the removal of this material will not pose a risk to the local community. We will continue to provide further information as this work progresses. We look forward to delivering this exciting upgrade for the school community.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

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4 September 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Further to our works notification dated 3 September 2020, during the refurbishment works at Newcastle East Public School, asbestos containing material was found in subfloor of Block A. The material has been confirmed as bonded asbestos which means it is attached to other material such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

Safety measures and monitoring have been put in place to ensure there is no risk to students, staff or the local community. As a precaution, the room where the contractor entered and exited the sub floor via an existing manhole has been environmentally cleaned.

All air monitoring has returned results below the minimum detection limit (i.e <0.01 fibres/mL) and a clearance certificate has been given by an independent hygienist confirming students and staff can safely occupy the rooms. Air monitoring will remain in place for the duration of work.

The area will be remediated in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and SafeWork NSW regulations. All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors, and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

The material is scheduled to be remediated this weekend on Saturday 5 September 2020 and Sunday 6 September 2020. All asbestos containing material will be removed outside of school hours.

Testing will be completed to ensure the area has been fully remediated. The school will receive a clearance certificate before the area is open to students and staff. We will keep you informed if further material is found which requires removal.

The health, safety, and well-being of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Please be assured that the removal of this material will not pose a risk to the local community.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work. We will continue to keep the community updated.

For more information contact:

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