

Newcastle East Public School

Works notification

28 August 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.

Playground Upgrade

Between Monday 31 August 2020 and Sunday 6 September 2020 work will include:

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

Progress Update

Works are progressing well with approximately 60% 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. The new retaining wall is underway with the piling work expected to begin this coming weekend.

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.

Reminder: 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 29 August 2020 and Sunday 30 August 2020 between 7.00am to 6.00pm
- Saturday 5 September 2020 and Sunday 6 September 2020 between 8.00am to 5.00pm

This coming weekend work will include piling for the new retaining wall and removal of contaminated materials. The pile boring work will be a noisier activity and involve a piling rig and an excavator. Remediation of existing garden beds around the school will also be carried out. 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 including on both the western boundary and the shared southern boundary between the school playground and the neighbouring properties. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Keeping you updated

In March 2020, the NSW Government introduced proactive measures, including social distancing, to limit the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on schools and communities. Social distancing resulted in changes to the way we engage with the community. Instead of face-to-face discussions we will deliver notifications to your letterbox or via the Skoolbag app. Community members are invited to discuss the work over the phone and email. Additional information boards about the playground work will also be placed on the fencing around the school.

FAQs relating to the playground upgrade are available on the Schools Infrastructure NSW website at <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/n/newcastle-east-public-school.html#library-tab>

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:

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