

Dudley Public School

Project update

September 2022

Project overview

The Department of Education is undertaking investigations to identify any further contaminated soils at Dudley Public School.

A full site investigation was carried out by an independent auditor and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in April 2022. Investigations included non-invasive site surveys and taking samples from beneath the soil surface across the school grounds.

The investigations showed some traces of contaminants in grounds, beneath the surface level. As a precautionary measure, an area of the playground remains isolated to ensure erosion does not expose any unexpected contaminants.

Progress update

The Detailed Site Investigation Report resulting from these investigations and Interim Advice from the EPA Accredited Site Auditor have been sent to the EPA. The EPA has advised that the remediation of the site is not reliant upon any endorsement by the EPA and the remediation will be guided by the independent auditor.

A draft Remediation Action Plan (RAP) has also been prepared and initial comments have been received by the independent auditor and responded to by the Department. We are currently waiting on the final endorsement of the draft RAP by the independent auditor.

Some early works that have been endorsed will start in the Term 3 school holidays between 24 September and 9 October 2022.

Fence relocation works - Saturday 3 September and Sunday 4 September 2022

The Department will also realign the temporary fencing zones to open more grassed playing area for students in the western section of the playground in areas where there is good grass cover and no asbestos containing 'fibro' debris were identified during the site investigations.

The independent auditor has advised that these sections are suitable for access and normal use.

The temporary fencing that will remain will restrict access to where areas of contamination were identified in grounds. The additional fencing changes will also restrict access to the 'cricket pitch' section of the playground area where weekly inspections have found the grass cover to be in poor condition due to the current access restriction and higher levels of ongoing use.

The fence relocation work is expected to be completed over the weekend between Saturday 3 September and Sunday 4 September 2022.

For more information contact:

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Early works during the Term 3 school holidays

During the Term 3 school holidays work will involve extending the existing concrete basketball court and associated stormwater management works.

Some additional soil testing is needed before the Department can finalise the planning and design to remediate and encapsulate the required areas of the site once the RAP is approved by the independent auditor. The additional testing will be completed during the Term 3 school holidays.

All remediation works 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 contractors and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Please be assured that safety of all students and staff in schools is of paramount importance to the Department and we will continue to provide regular updates to the school community as the planning and remediation work progresses.

Thank you for your understanding during this important work.

More information

If you have any questions about the project, please contact the school directly, or contact School Infrastructure NSW on 1300 482 651 or schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au.

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