

Riverstone Public School

Works notification | 23 June 2023

Dear staff and parents/carers,

The Department of Education installed new and efficient LED lighting at Riverstone Public School in February 2022.

During an inspection, we identified that the work to install new LED fittings in the garden shed in Building D and the Cottage in Building E may have impacted the ceilings in these areas, which are known to contain asbestos.

Following the Department of Education's protocols on the management of asbestos in schools, the areas were immediately isolated, and an independent occupational hygienist attended the site on Friday 16 June 2023 to inspect the work and conduct testing.

Samples collected by the hygienist confirmed the ceiling sheets in these areas as bonded asbestos which means it is attached to other material such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

Based on recommendations from the hygienist, we conducted a precautionary environmental clean of the Cottage on Sunday 18 June 2023. Air monitoring was installed as a precautionary measure and confirmed results below the minimum detection limit (i.e., <0.01 fibres/ml). This area was reopened after the hygienist issued a clearance certificate to the school.

The garden shed will remain cordoned off until the ceiling can be replaced on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June 2023.

All asbestos containing material will be removed in accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. 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 hygienist will inspect the garden shed following work to ensure the area has been fully remediated. A clearance certificate will be issued to the school so the area can be reopened.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and local community continues to be our highest priority.

Thank you for your understanding.

