

Balgowlah Heights Public School

Works notification | 12 April 2024

Dear staff, parents/carers,

On Monday 8 April, following a heavy rain event, fragments of cement material suspected to contain asbestos were found in bushland west of Building C at Balgowlah Heights Public School. The fragments were removed for testing and the area was fenced off and made out of bounds.

Balgowlah Heights Public School has a site-specific asbestos management plan for known asbestos in-ground. As part of ongoing management under this plan, inspections are required following heavy rain events. The fragments were found in an area listed on this plan.

Testing confirmed that the fragment contained bonded asbestos, which means it was attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

NSW Health explains that if bonded asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials, and in good condition, it is likely to be low risk.

The area has now been inspected by an independent hygienist to ensure that there are no more fragments remaining. The school will now be issued with a clearance certificate and the area has been reopened.

Work was done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. All work was completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

The health, safety and wellbeing of the school and the local community are our highest priority.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

