

Umina Beach Public School

Information pack | October 2023

You may have seen fenced areas at Umina Beach Public School and received notifications about fragments of asbestos containing material. This information pack summarises how we're managing asbestos in ground at your school, including recent work done over the school holidays and how we're supporting ongoing access to play space.

Managing asbestos in ground at Umina Beach Public School

Umina Beach Public School has a site-specific asbestos management plan in place for known asbestos in ground and have been following the regular inspection and management protocols within this plan.

From July 2023, these regular inspections, including increased inspections following some rain events, meant that a number of fragments have been found.

We have been working with an independent hygienist throughout and have kept the community updated through Works Notifications. Some areas where fragments are found had access restricted by fencing while work took place in line with hygienist recommendations, then cleared and reopened.

We have engaged the hygienist to prepare a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) to undertake large-scale remediation activities and update the site-specific Asbestos Management Plan for the school.

Update since our last notification end of Term 3

In the most recent notification (13 September 2023) we let you know that we are continuing to work closely with independent occupational hygienists, as well as licensed and accredited asbestos contractors to manage fragments containing asbestos materials in grounds at the school.

Since 13 September we fenced off some additional areas following fragment finds.

The fragments found in the soil at Umina Beach Public School are those associated with building waste such as tiles and bricks. These fragments are bonded asbestos and in good condition, which means they cannot be crumbled using light pressure. There is no evidence of other contaminants in the soil following visual inspections by the independent hygienist, in accordance with SafeWork regulations. Air monitoring in place from 14 September returned results below minimum reportable levels.

During the Spring school holiday period we did work in some play areas to prevent further erosion so they can remain open for students. Temporary fencing will remain in place in some areas. See below for more information and the map for detail.

We continue to work with the hygienist on planning remediation work at the school. See below for more information on next steps.

Measures to maximise outdoor play space

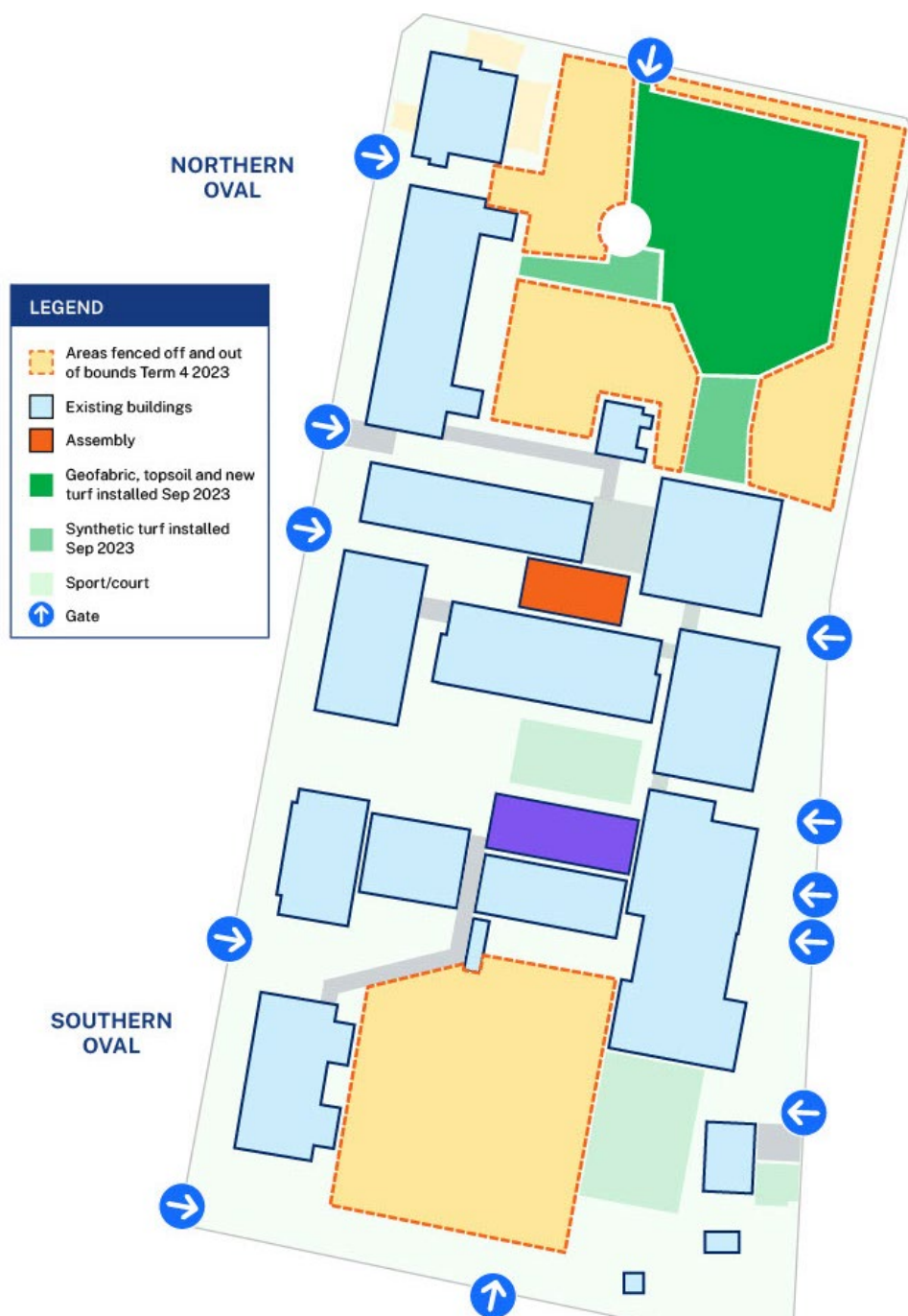
Over the Spring school holiday period we did minor works under advice of the hygienist to prevent further erosion of the ground and keep as much of the outdoor play space open. The map overleaf shows these areas.



This work included:

- removing the play equipment in the middle of the oval to create more open play space area for students
- installing geofabric and placing 100mm topsoil before returfing the majority of the Northern oval so it can continue to be used
- installing synthetic grass on high traffic areas where turf is unlikely to be successful and that will provide all weather access to the oval space.

A planned maintenance project to create more functional open play space for students in the central quad, with synthetic turf and a sports court, was also finished during the Spring school holidays.



Some areas of the school will remain fenced off and out of bounds, which includes the Southern oval.

The school has secured an ongoing booking with Central Coast Council to use the council oval next to the school if required. The school will manage access and supervision and will provide more information about these arrangements.

Remediation Action Plan

The independent hygienist has developed a Remediation Action Plan (RAP), which details recommendations for remediation to the school grounds. This is being reviewed.

Next steps are that we will engage consultants to start the design for work needed to fulfill the recommendations of the RAP. We will be able to confirm timing for remediation once the design is complete and scope of work is approved.

We understand the importance of keeping you up to date and will continue to share information with the community.

If you have any questions about what was found or the planned works, please contact School Infrastructure NSW on 1300 482 651 (during business hours) or schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au.

More information about how we manage asbestos containing material at Umina Beach PS

The health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff at our more than 2,200 schools is always the Department of Education's highest priority.

We acknowledge that even the smallest traces of asbestos containing materials can be an unsettling experience for our school communities.

Where the presence of asbestos is discovered in a school, as with all hazardous material on public school sites, this is managed in strict accordance with Safe Work NSW and all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines including the Department's Asbestos Management Plan for NSW Government Schools.

The Asbestos Management Plan covers how asbestos is managed on school sites, organisational responsibilities, removal and remediation procedures and ongoing asbestos management. Some schools also have site specific management plans for asbestos in ground.

The Umina Beach Public School Asbestos Register and current site-specific management plan for asbestos in ground are published on the SINSW website Asbestos Register pages (alphabetically): <https://edu.nsw.link/asbestosregister>

All works notifications and information packs like this are also published on the SINSW website, on the Umina Beach Public School webpage: <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/schools/3/3995.html>

If you have more concerns

Individuals concerned about exposure can also record their details on the National Asbestos Exposure Register.

The register is managed by the Australian Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, which was created so that members of the community who think that they may have been exposed to asbestos can record the details of their exposure for their future reference. There is no minimum level of exposure required to add your details to the register.

If you have any questions regarding the register or would like to speak to someone at the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, please call 1300 326 148.

