

# Fennell Bay Public School

Project Update | December 2023

You will be aware of fenced areas at Fennell Bay Public School as part of managing soil contamination.

This information pack summarises how we're managing materials in ground at your school, including upcoming work over the school holidays to support access to play space.

## Managing in ground materials at Fennell Bay Public School

As a precaution Fennell Bay Public School has had open space areas isolated since Term 1 and Term 2 2021 under the advice of independent hygienist and contaminated land consultants. This is due to residual lead-containing material (known as "black slag") found in the soil.

Earlier this year, asbestos fragments were found in a different section of school site, near the Eastern sports court, and additional fencing was erected on advice from the independent hygienist.

Fencing has been installed and maintained (see map overleaf) to prevent erosion and allow grass coverage to become established in all the affected areas as a barrier to the soil.

Some areas identified from the soil testing as containing black slag also have had silt fencing installed as an environmental mitigation measure to control water run-off.

## Work over the Summer school holidays

During the upcoming Summer school holiday period we will be doing minor works under the advice of the hygienist so we can reopen areas of the school for Term 1 2024. This work is to encapsulate the affected soil so that staff and students can safely use more outdoor areas.

This work includes:

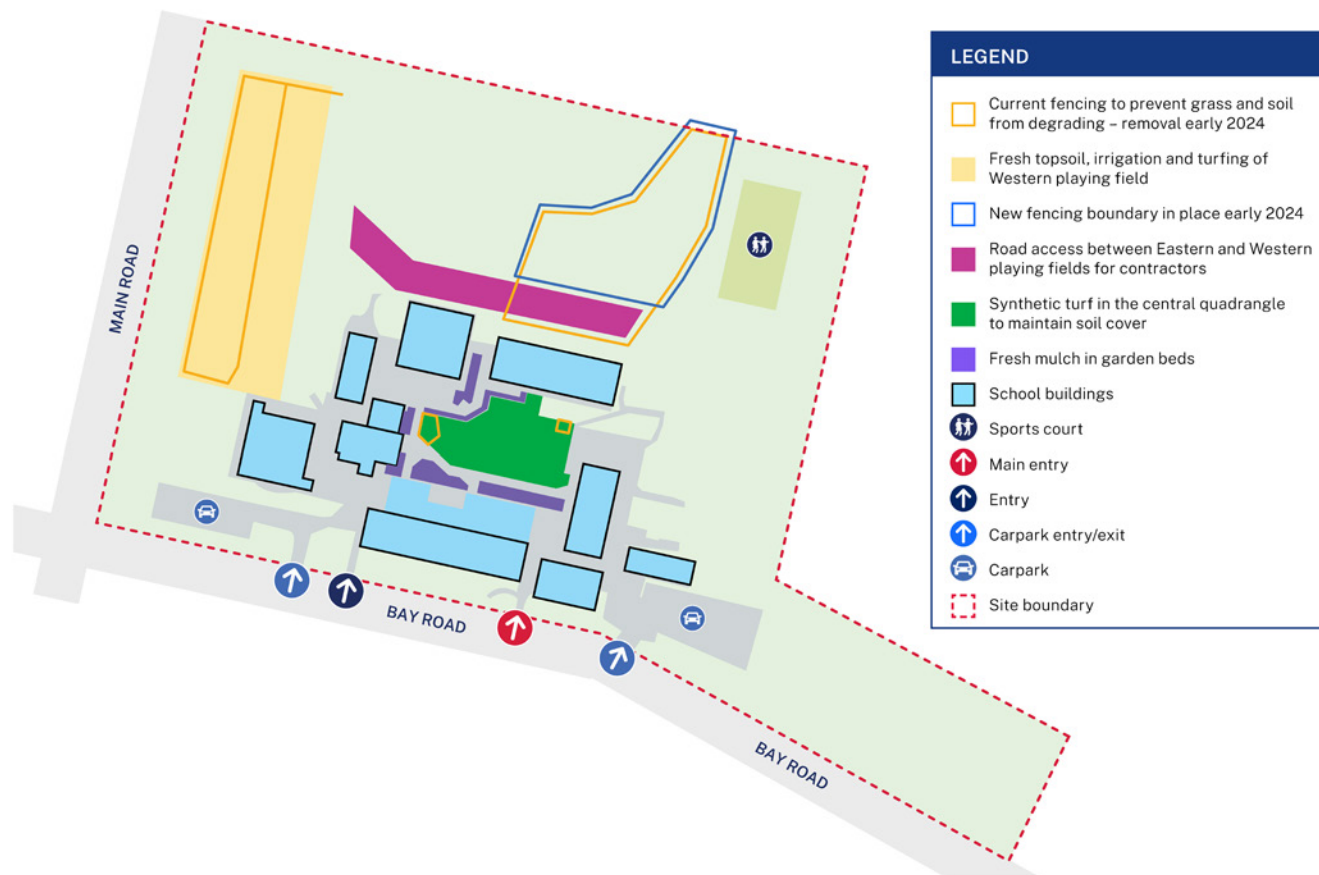
- installing synthetic turf in the central quadrangle to maintain soil cover in a high traffic area and prevent wildlife from digging into the soil
- applying fresh mulch to 6 garden beds in the central quadrangle to improve the soil barrier
- adding fresh topsoil and turfing the large, Western playing field (grassed play area) and installing a watering system to establish the new turf and support ongoing soil coverage
- creating an access road between the Eastern and Western playing fields to support movement of materials, protect ground cover and facilitate future work on the site.
- moving the fencing to continue to isolate an area near the Eastern sports court.

This work is anticipated to be finished in early 2024.

All work will be completed in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines, noting that the planned works do not involve disturbing lead or asbestos.



## Map of work and fenced areas of school site



## Next steps for Remediation Action Plan

The independent hygienist will carry out weekly visual inspections of the school once the work is completed for Term 1 2024 to ensure that control measures such as grass and garden coverage are maintained.

As part of longer-term planning, we are working with occupational hygienists, contaminated land consultants and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) on a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) for the site. We will continue to provide regular updates to the school community as the planning and remediation work progresses. We understand the importance of keeping you up to date and will continue to share information with the community as we can.

Please be assured that the safety of all students and staff in schools is of paramount importance to the department.

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](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au).

For more information about black slag, please check the 'Managing Black Slag Affected Soils' Factsheet on the Lake Macquarie City council website.

Thank you for your understanding during this important work.

