

Cessnock High School

Works notification | 6 February 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

Due to recent storm damage, we are undertaking repairs, remediation and cleaning in a number of areas within Cessnock High School.

Areas being repaired

The hall, Support Unit Building, covered outdoor learning area (COLA), and separate shade sail were damaged. Repairs have already begun.

Damage included:

- roof damage to Support Unit Building and the hall
- water damage to flooring in the hall
- structural damage to the COLA
- damage to the shade sail cloth
- debris across the school.

Remediation work

During the clean-up we found broken pieces of eave sheeting from the Support Unit Building. These sheets are known to contain bonded asbestos as listed in the school's asbestos register.

NSW Health explains that 'living or working with asbestos, or just being around it, is a low risk to your health as long as the asbestos is in good condition and not damaged'.

We engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the damage, conduct air monitoring and organise removal of the asbestos-containing materials.

All air monitoring returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines. All work involving asbestos-containing material was done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan.

Safety measures were in place while work was done.

All work was completed by licensed asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists.

Cleaning and repair work

When remediation work was finished the independent hygienist issued a clearance certificate and the clean-up and repair work continued.



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Work included:

- cleaning of debris from across the school
- an engineer inspection to check the structural integrity of the Support Unit Building, the hall and the COLA
- removing and replacing damaged roof panels from the Support Unit Building and the hall
- securing tarps to the Support Unit Building to make it watertight until roof panels were replaced
- removing damaged furniture and fixtures, and lead testing in the roof cavities of the Support Unit Building and the hall
- removing the COLA structure and the shade sail cloth in the Support Unit playground.

Work to repair the roof of the hall is expected to continue until mid 2025. It will be out of use for students and staff until work is done.

A new shade sail cloth will be installed by Term 1 and a new COLA structure will be installed when the hall is finished.

We are working closely with contractors to finish the work as soon as possible, and with minimal disruption to teaching and learning.

All lead testing work was done in accordance with work, health and safety laws. All work was completed by licensed contractors and monitored by independent hygienists.

Landscaping project

The landscaping project east of the hall has been affected by this clean-up and repair work.

The project will continue when all work is finished.

More information

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

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

We will continue to keep the community informed.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.