

Lake Macquarie High School

Works notification | 13 March 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

On Tuesday 5 March 2024, a fragment of suspected asbestos containing material was identified on the ground in a garden bed near Building A at Lake Macquarie High School. Following this, on Thursday 7 March some additional fragments were identified on the ground behind Building C.

This school has a site-specific asbestos management plan in place due to known asbestos containing material in the ground and historical finds.

Following the finds, the areas were immediately fenced off. An independent hygienist was engaged who installed air monitoring, removed the fragments for testing, inspected the areas and cleared the ground.

Testing confirmed the fragments were bonded asbestos which means they were attached to other materials such as tiles or cement 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.

Air monitoring to date has 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.

The fencing and air monitoring will remain in place until the areas have been cleared to be reopened by the independent hygienist, who will also be reviewing the site-specific management plan for the school.

All work involving asbestos containing materials took place outside of school hours, with additional safety measures and monitoring in place. Work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws 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 health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and local community is our highest priority, and we will continue to keep the community updated.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

