

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On Friday 24 May 2024, during excavation work for a sewer line restoration, fragments of building material suspected to contain asbestos were found in the ground at Bomaderry High School.

The area where they were found is not listed on the school's site-specific asbestos management plan, however as a precautionary measure we treated the material as asbestos, and the work stopped immediately.

The area is already fenced off and not accessible for the sewer line work. The excavated ground was covered with soil and secured with a layer of plastic as an additional precautionary measure.

We engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the site, organise samples for testing, and conduct air monitoring.

On 29 May 2024, testing confirmed that some of the material contains friable asbestos. Friable asbestos can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure.

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.

These results represent a consistent finding that there is not a detectable level of asbestos fibres in the air in this area. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is not airborne asbestos in this area.

Work to finish the sewer line restoration work will take place in the Winter School Holidays under the supervision and guidance of an independent hygienist.

All work will be done outside of school hours, in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures will be in place while work is being done. All work involving hazardous material will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

When the sewer line work is complete there will be a final inspection by the independent hygienist to confirm the area has been fully remediated, and a clearance certificate will be issued before it is reopened for normal use.

**NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure**

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.