

# Dorrigo High School

## Works notification | 5 June 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

We would like to update you on the mould remediation work at Dorrigo High School, which we informed you about on 8 May 2025.

This work was originally scheduled for Saturday 17 May 2025 but could not be completed as planned due to landslides in the area.

The work was rescheduled and completed on Saturday 31 May 2025.

Thank you for your patience during this important work.

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### **Notification issued on 8 May 2025**

In March 2025, the staff study room in Building A was damaged at Dorrigo High School during the Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred weather event.

The damage included a hole in the exterior cement panel below the window, which resulted in mould forming on the internal walls and carpet.

The room was locked and the hole in the window panel was taped and made airtight to minimise exposure until repairs could be made.

### **Asbestos removal**

The exterior cement window panel was suspected of containing asbestos.

We engaged an independent hygienist to test the material and results confirmed it contained bonded asbestos. This window was not listed on 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".

On Wednesday 23 April, licensed contractors removed the asbestos-containing window panel between 7 am and 6 pm in line with NSW Environment Protection Authority guidelines. Work took place during the Autumn School Holidays to avoid disrupting school operations.

All work 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 inspected by independent hygienists.

On Monday 28 April, the independent hygienist issued a clearance certificate.

On Thursday 1 May, the window panel was replaced with non-hazardous material.

### **Mould remediation**

Mould remediation is scheduled to take place on Saturday 17 May.

A professional mould remediation contractor has been engaged to remediate the area on Saturday 17 May. This work will include:



- cleaning all affected surfaces and items
- removing affected porous sections of carpet, furnishings and materials
- decontaminating all affected non-porous surfaces with a biocide
- removing airborne mould spores with a HEPA vacuum
- drying the space with fans and dehumidifiers.

All work will have appropriate safety measures in place. Use and access to the building will remain restricted until the area is fully remediated.

Once the mould remediation is finished, an independent hygienist will inspect the room and issue a clearance certificate before the room is reopened for use.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of all members of our school and the local community are our highest priorities.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.