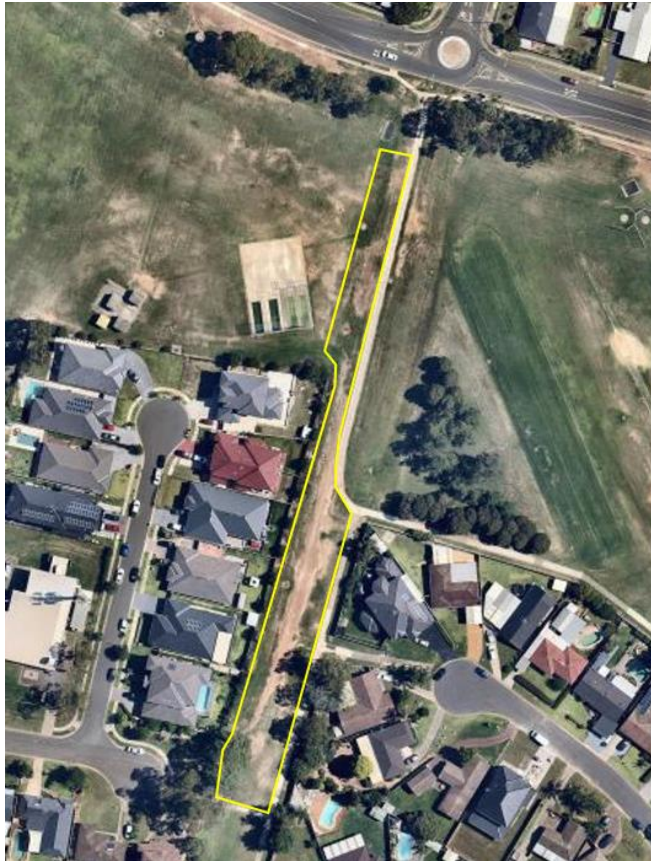


# SAUNDERS PARK – ST CLAIR

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### BACKGROUND

The area between Luke's Lane, Saunders Park and Cook and Banks Fields as marked below has been subject to asbestos concerns.



Since becoming aware of the asbestos on site, Council has undertaken the following to ensure the site is safe:

- Removed all asbestos from the ground surface.
- Implemented suitable asbestos management controls.
- Engaged SafeWork NSW Licensed Asbestos Assessors to inspect and provide Clearance Certificates.
- Undertaken air monitoring in line with SafeWork NSW requirements. (The air monitoring showed that there is no risk of airborne asbestos to the community).
- Engaged suitably qualified consultants to undertake detailed sub-surface investigations of the site. All assessments were conducted in

line with SafeWork NSW and Environment Protection Authority requirements.

- The investigations on site outline that there is non-friable asbestos below the ground surface which requires remediation. This material was found not to be in a deteriorated state.
- Prepare a Remedial Action Plan for the site.

Further information on the remediation project is provided below.

### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ASBESTOS?**

NSW Health outlines that non-friable asbestos poses a low health risk if it is not in a deteriorated state. This is because the asbestos fibres are bonded together and the asbestos fibres cannot be readily released into the atmosphere.

Further information from NSW Health can be found on their website. [NSW Health Website Link](#)

### **HOW DID COUNCIL RESPOND TO THE ASBESTOS CONCERNS AFTER THE RECENT FLOODING ON THE SITE?**

The site was impacted by the recent flooding. Once the water receded, trained staff from Penrith City Council attended the site to assess the damage caused by the floodwaters and to determine if there were any risks to the community.

At the time a small amount of non-friable asbestos containing material (ACM) was found on the ground surface. This material was exposed as a result of erosion from the recent flooding. This ACM was found not to be in a deteriorated state.

Staff also found that the construction fencing and geofabric layer had been disturbed.

Council implemented strict procedures which included engaging a SafeWork NSW licensed asbestos contractor to remove the asbestos containing material and an independent Licensed Asbestos Assessor to inspect the area and to issue a Clearance Certificate.

Penrith City Council has also notified SafeWork NSW of the situation.

## WHAT IS A CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE?

A Clearance Certificate is a certificate issued under SafeWork NSW 'How to Safely Remove Asbestos' Code of Practice. A Clearance Certificate can not be issued unless the inspection area is free of surface asbestos. Council engages an Independent SafeWork Licensed Asbestos Assessor to assess asbestos incident sites and where the site complies with SafeWork NSW requirements, Council obtains a Clearance Certificate from the Independent Assessor.

## IF THERE IS A CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE, WHY DOES THE AREA STILL NEED TO BE FENCED OFF?

The affected area has non-friable asbestos in the sub-surface which does not pose an immediate risk to the community. However, it is important that Council restricts access to that area so that this material does not become exposed.

Although not required, Council also placed geo-fabric over the area as an additional control measure.

The construction fencing and geofabric layer were disturbed during the flooding and will be reinstated this week.

## DID THE ASBESTOS GET WASHED DOWN THE CATCHMENT DURING THE RECENT WET WEATHER?

An inspection of the area downstream of the asbestos incident area has been undertaken. This inspection shows that there is no evidence that asbestos was washed down the catchment.

## FUTURE WORKS - REMEDIATION PROJECT UPDATE

Council appreciates that the site has been subject to remediation for some time. When a site requires remediation, Council needs to work with licensed asbestos contractors, Licensed Asbestos Assessors and other consultants to ensure that all SafeWork NSW and Environment Protection Authority requirements are met.

To meet all these requirements and depending on the complexity of the situation, it can take some time to undertake all necessary investigation, clean up the site and conduct remediation works.

This remediation area is complex and poses a number of challenges which the final remediation strategy needs to consider. These challenges include:

- Working with Telstra and Sydney Water in terms of their infrastructure that falls within the remediation area.
- The playing fields act as a flood mitigation area, any changes to the area also need to consider flooding impacts.
- Overland flow pathways which cannot be impacted and need to be engineered to ensure that overland flow is not impacted.

In addition, due to the ongoing water restrictions applied by the State Government, Penrith City Council has been constrained in managing new turf areas. Turf is an important part of this remediation project as it ensures that we comply with our legislative requirements for asbestos remediation and will also minimise dust and loss of topsoil from the site. As such the project was delayed until a suitable time when a turf layer can be established.

The good news is that Council has now progressed to the final stages of the remediation planning phase. Council is working through approvals required and the procurement of appropriate licensed remediation contractors and consultants. Once this has been completed, the remediation of the site can commence.

### **WHAT COMMUNICATION HAS COUNCIL PROVIDED THE COMMUNITY REGARDING THE ASBESTOS REMEDIATION?**

Since asbestos was first found on the site, Council has been keeping the local residents informed. This has been through regular letterbox drops to 102 properties around the site. Letters were provided to the residents in April 2019, May 2019, August 2019 and December 2019.

In addition, Council has posted regular updates on its website.

**For more information phone the Divisional Assurance Team on 4732 8673.**