

# Grounds inspection Report, Plattsburg Public School, Wallsend, NSW

November 2012

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**NSW Public Works**

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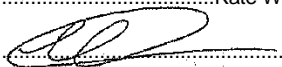
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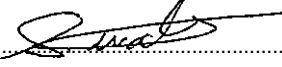
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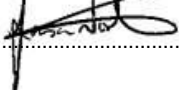
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# 1. Introduction

In February 2003, an inspection of the school grounds was carried out to identify fibrous cement fragments at the ground surface of Plattsburg Public School, Ranclaud Street, Wallsend NSW, 2287.

This involved a simple site walkover and visual inspection to locate any fibrous cement fragments on surfaces within the School grounds.

## 1.1 Document Review

No Activity and/or no re-occurrence of ACM in grounds on this site has occurred since 2003, as such the following is recommended:

This document is to be reviewed and updated

- when works occur on site
- when works occur on site which may cause grounds disturbance
- when any ACM in grounds is reported
- or in 5 years, if no activity.

## 2. Results and Recommendations

At the time of the inspection no fibrous cement fragments were identified within the School grounds.

The areas are therefore considered suitable for normal use.

### 2.1 Asbestos in grounds Routine Management

Upon discovery of suspected Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) in any DEC facility grounds, the local DEC Asset Management Unit (AMU) should be contacted. Access to any suspect area should be restricted until such time as the material is identified as not containing asbestos or the material has been removed and/or encapsulated.

When surface ACMs have been identified and fill materials have been used and are evident at the surface, an Occupational Hygienist/ Environmental Scientist should be engaged by the DEC to assess the risks and recommend appropriate management techniques for the area. Depending on the situation one or more of the following techniques should be employed:

- Removal of all visible ACMs at the ground surface. The ACMs should be treated as *friable* in accordance with the interpretation of the NSW WorkCover Authority published in 'Your Guide to Working with Asbestos. Safety guidelines and requirements for work involving asbestos, March 2003' and will require removal by a contractor licensed by the NSW WorkCover Authority for works on friable asbestos products.
- Restrict access to the area, using fencing.
- Encapsulate area using mulched garden beds, returfing and/or installing hard stand surfaces as appropriate. A demarcation layer such as geofabric may be applied to the surface prior to the encapsulation.
- In certain circumstances alternative strategies will be considered by the DEC and Department of Commerce (DOC) in conjunction with an appointed Hygienist/ Environmental Scientist.

### 3. Legislative requirements

The following legislative requirements will apply to asbestos zone maintenance works:

- All asbestos removal and disposal work shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the WorkCover NSW Guidelines for Licensed Asbestos Removal Contractors
- The asbestos contractor shall notify WorkCover NSW of the proposed work at least 5 days prior to the commencement of any work in accordance with NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2011. However this time period may be waived in the case for DEC properties
- All work shall be carried out in strict accordance with the NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011, the NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, How to Safely Remove Asbestos – Code of Practice 2011, and the Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres, 2nd Edition [NOHSC 3003 (2005)].

## 4. Safe work procedures for asbestos work

The following safe work procedures will apply for asbestos work:

- The removal contractor must develop a site-specific asbestos removal plan before commencing the asbestos work. Such a plan must be prepared in accordance with Section 3 of the Work Safe Australia- How to safely remove asbestos: Code of Practice 2011.
- Only personnel who have been trained in work procedures for the safe removal of asbestos shall work on asbestos.
- A trained, experienced operator must remain on duty outside the removal area and/or enclosure (if installed) at all times that asbestos removal is in progress. Curricula vitae for all persons undertaking asbestos removal works must be submitted to the Principal prior to the commencement of work on the sites.
- Removal of asbestos must generally be carried out by wet removal techniques. That is, as the asbestos material becomes accessible during the removal process, it shall be thoroughly wetted down. Care must be exercised to prevent excessive use of water. The contractor will be held responsible for any water damage
- Decontamination facilities and procedures shall be undertaken to the complete satisfaction of a hygienist
- Any signage existing prior to removal must be re-affixed to any new or existing assembly
- The contractor must ensure that persons in the work area(s) are not exposed to fibre levels greater than those stated in the National Exposure Standard for the type of asbestos being removed.



## Figure

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Site layout plan

### 7308 – Plattsburg Public School Site Plan (11669)

