

# Grounds inspection Report, Curlewis Public School, NSW, Curlewis

January 2011

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NSW Public Works

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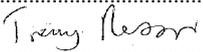
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Date: ..... January 2011

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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 Curlewis Public School on Goran St Curlewis NSW 2381.

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

# 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 DET facility grounds, the local DET 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 DET 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 DET and Department of Commerce (DOC) in conjunction with an appointed Hygienist/ Environmental Scientist.

### 3. Legislative requirements

The following legislative requirements will apply to asbestos in grounds maintenance works:

- All friable 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 friable asbestos contractor shall notify WorkCover NSW of the proposed work at least 7 days prior to the commencement of any work in accordance with NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001. However this time period may be waived in the case for DET properties.
- All work shall be carried out in strict accordance with the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000, the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001, the Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition [NOHSC: 2002 (2005)] and the Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres, 2nd Edition [NOHSC 3003 (2005)].

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## 4. Safe work procedures for friable asbestos work

The following safe work procedures will apply for friable 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 8 of the *Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos*.
- Only personnel who have been trained in work procedures for the safe removal of asbestos (with greater than 3 year's experience) shall work on the friable asbestos. A trained, experienced operator must remain on duty outside the removal enclosure 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-containing material 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.