

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH 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 at:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/asbestos-and-health-risks.aspx>

WHAT IS A CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AND AIR MONITORING?

A Clearance Certificate is issued under the SafeWork NSW 'How to Safely Remove Asbestos' Code of Practice. A Clearance Certificate cannot 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. Air monitoring is also undertaken by an independent SafeWork licensed asbestos assessor to determine if there is a risk of airborne asbestos.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION?

In this circumstance, an environmental investigation involves the sampling, testing and inspection of asbestos beneath the ground surface, undertaken by a suitably qualified consultant. An environmental investigation assists with determining if contamination exists at a site.

WHAT IS ASBESTOS REMEDIATION?

Asbestos remediation refers to the treatment methods that are adopted to manage a site that is affected by asbestos contamination to ensure the safety of residents, the community, and staff. Treatment methods can include removal and encapsulation. The most appropriate treatment method will be determined based on the contamination outlined in an environmental investigation, the current and future use of the site, any vegetation on the site, and if the site is impacted by flooding or drainage issues.