



Nowra Bridge project

Update on asbestos found in mulch

July 2024



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

Transport for NSW has carried out independent testing of recycled mulch used across project sites after traces of bonded asbestos was found earlier this year.

Testing of recycled mulch used across the Nowra Bridge project found traces of bonded asbestos present at some landscaped areas.

We took immediate steps to fence off the affected areas pending advice from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), who were conducting their own investigation into the source of the contamination.

Since then, together with the project contractor, Fulton Hogan, we have been working with the EPA to develop a remediation plan. This process took longer than expected while we worked with the EPA's investigation, and they set out the next steps.

What are the next steps?

In the coming weeks, Fulton Hogan will begin work to remove recycled mulch from the affected landscaped areas in accordance with the EPA's contaminated mulch management plan.

Mulch will be removed from the three fenced off sites, as well as three other sites where testing of mulch found traces of other building materials, for example plastics and treated or painted timber.

After the mulch has been removed, a licensed asbestos assessor will inspect the sites and provide a clearance certificate prior to new mulch being placed.

When and where we'll be working

Work will begin from **Wednesday 10 July 2024 and take up to nine weeks**, weather permitting.

Our standard work hours are:

- 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday
- 8am to 1pm, Saturday

Night work may be required on occasion and the community will be informed in advance.

What does this mean for you?

Since the detection of bonded asbestos in recycled mulch, the sites have been fenced off to prevent any public access.

All asbestos found at the landscaped sites is bonded asbestos. The advice from NSW Health and Safe Work is that there is a low-to-negligible risk from bonded asbestos.

To ensure the safety of community and our workers, we will continue to:

- Follow an asbestos management plan that details safe work practices
- Monitor for airborne asbestos fibre around the perimeter of the work area
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment is worn by workers
- Ensure the work area is isolated with safety fences and asbestos warning signs

Transport remains committed to your safety and appreciates your patience while we work to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

We will continue to keep you updated as the work progresses.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring fibrous minerals found in soil or rock. Asbestos was used to create cheap, lightweight, and fire-resistant materials for use in building, manufacturing and utilities.

Asbestos is common in homes and buildings constructed or renovated before 1990.

There are two types of asbestos.

Friable asbestos has been crushed into a powder, whereas non-friable asbestos (also known as bonded), has been mixed with cement or resin to keep fibres in place.

Source: NSW EPA and Safe Work Australia.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact the project team:



1800 331 713



NowraBridgeProject@fultonhogan.com.au



For more information, visit:

nsw.gov.au/asbestos



Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 331 713.

Location of work

