

Project Update – November 2025

Sue Savage remediation works Monday 3 to Friday 21 November

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Council is continuing to progress works at Sue Savage Reserve to deliver many exciting upgrades including a BMX pump track, a new skate park, and improved recreational facilities.

In addition to unexpected finds reported in June, when contractors were excavating the grassed area closest to the road at Sue Savage Reserve, a small amount of asbestos-containing 'fibro' was found in the soil, along with other materials.

It is expected that remediation works will begin on Monday 3 November and be completed by Friday 21 November 2025, subject to site conditions and weather.

Remediation will include constructing a physical barrier that will prevent buried asbestos-containing materials from becoming accidentally exposed.

Sue Savage Reserve is expected to be open to the public late-December 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'fibro', why is remediation necessary?

Fibro is a bonded cement board, a building product that can contain asbestos. This material was commonly used in residential construction from the 1950s to 1990 when it was banned by the Australian government.

Small amounts of other materials, including glass, ceramic, and asphalt were also found in some of the soil.

It was asbestos, what happened next?

After the material was found, Council and the contractors carrying out the work contacted specialist environmental consultants for advice.

All soil stockpiles were isolated and sprayed with a special binding agent to prevent dust and any asbestos fibres from being carried into the air, and soil was sent to a laboratory for testing.

Across 26 samples, four (4) were later found to be fibro with asbestos-containing material.

To ensure the continued safety of workers, park users, and neighbouring residents, Council implemented the following measures:

- Stockpiles of excavated soil were isolated and covered with a specialised spray-on binding agent to reduce the risk of asbestos fibres becoming airborne

- Fenced exclusion zones were created around affected stockpiles
- Signs were installed on site to let the community know about the fibro find, and to inform people about Council's plan to manage the site to minimise risks
- Where any fragments of fibro were identified in a stockpile, the entire stockpile was treated as contaminated and will be disposed of at a specially licensed waste disposal facility
- Air-quality monitoring began and will continue during all works where soil might be disturbed. This includes monitoring air-quality at the boundaries of the exclusion zone

To date, all air-quality monitoring results have been within normal limits, suggesting the controls put in place by Council have been effective

- Additional specialists were called in to advise of appropriate remediation measures and suitable ongoing management
- All appropriate asbestos notifications were made to SafeWork NSW.

What's happening now?

- It is expected that remediation works will begin on Monday 3 November and be completed by Friday 21 November 2025, subject to site conditions and weather.
- Remediation of the construction area will include capping the affected soil and laying new turf. Capping involves the construction of physical barriers that prevent buried asbestos-containing materials from becoming accidentally exposed.

A brightly-coloured special textile 'marker' layer is placed over the soil to prevent the exposure of materials in the event of surface erosion. A thick layer of clean soil will be overlaid, followed by clean turf. This is a common NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved treatment method.

- The EPA and SafeWork NSW were informed of the planned work, and a Licensed Asbestos Removalist will carry out the remediation program.
- The entire process will be overseen by an environmental hygienist. Protection measures, including maintaining an exclusion zone and ongoing air-quality monitoring, will be in place until the site is provided with a clearance certificate.
- A Long-Term Environmental Management Plan will be created to guide maintenance and any other planned works at the site.

Council's approach to asbestos management ensures that materials cannot become exposed or airborne and minimises the volume of contaminated soil going to landfill. It

also allows for the site to be maintained in the long-term via an ongoing management plan.

Council's treatment of asbestos is consistent with national and state guidance on the remediation of contaminated lands, including the National Environment Protection Measure (2013), and the National Remediation Framework.

What are the health implications if my family has been exposed to asbestos from these unexpected finds?

Asbestos is associated with terrible impacts on human health. However, this generally requires regular and consistent exposure to high volumes of asbestos-containing materials, and loose asbestos fibres being inhaled or ingested.

Workers at asbestos mines, at plants where building materials containing asbestos were manufactured, and those involved in demolition and construction, are the people most affected by mesothelioma and other lung conditions.

Asbestos fibres in fibro are less likely to become loose, and airborne, due to the binding action of the cement within the fibro.

While Council treats all asbestos issues seriously, the small number of fibro fragments found at Sue Savage Reserve are highly unlikely to cause any adverse health impacts.

Council manages all asbestos finds with appropriate caution. Air-quality testing shows that asbestos is within normal limits. This means Council's actions, guided by specialists, are effective.

I would still like to know more about asbestos related health risks

If you are concerned about health risks, you can visit the **NSW Health website** www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/asbestos-and-health-risks.aspx or contact your local [public health unit](#) on 1300 066 055

SafeWork NSW also offers information on health risks due to exposure to asbestos www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/asbestos