



4 March 2026

Dear Community Members,

RE: Westmead Asbestos Remediation

I am writing to inform you about important remediation works that will soon take place at our parish site for the new Sacred Heart Church.

As part of the early site investigations and completing our due diligence, some asbestos-containing-material (ACM) was identified in the soil of the site for the new church, as had been found in the soil for the new school. As per our Remediation Action Plan (RAP) we will move promptly to remediate the church site, in compliance with all regulatory standards, legislation and utilising the safest and best practice methodology. Remediation of the new school site has been completed.

**The remediation works will commence Monday 9 March 2026 within strict working hours to ensure the safety of all. Truck entry and egress will be staged and controlled outside of drop-off and pick-up times to prevent congestion or interference with current traffic operations.**

The goal is to remediate the site efficiently while maintaining the highest standards of safety for all.

We understand that this may raise concerns, and we want to reassure you that:

- All works will be supervised by a Licensed Hygienist and undertaken by licenced Asbestos Removal Contractors.
- The remediation process will comply fully with NSW SafeWork legislation and the requirements of the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), specifically, the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 and the Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2014.
- Strict safety mitigations and controls are in place including secure exclusion zones, daily air monitoring, stockpiles covered at all times and wetting down where required.
- Controlled and compliant waste storage, transportation to licenced facilities and disposal procedures will be in place throughout the project.
- The site is located a considerable distance from the school areas and there is the separate construction site forming a buffer between the parish works and the closest school.
- Independent clearance certification will be obtained at the completion of the remediation to confirm the area is safe and free from all identified ACM.



The safety of students, staff, parishioners, and the wider community is our highest priority. We are coordinating closely with the school leadership teams to ensure they are informed of the schedule and safety measures in place and will continue to share updates as the project progresses.

Please find below some FAQs. If you have any further questions, please email [WestmeadProject@parracatholic.org](mailto:WestmeadProject@parracatholic.org)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we undertake these important safety works.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Fogarty".

Fr Walter Fogarty  
Parish Priest  
Sacred Heart Westmead



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. What was found on the parish site?

During early works associated with the parish construction program, asbestos-containing material (ACM) was identified in the soil as was found in the new school site. Its removal is being undertaken in accordance with our independently prepared Remediation Action Plan (RAP) and relevant NSW legislative requirements.

### 2. What is the Remediation Action Plan (RAP)?

The Remediation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal document prepared by qualified environmental consultants that outlines:

- The location and nature of the identified material
- The methodology for safe removal
- Environmental and health protection controls
- Monitoring and validation requirements
- Procedures for waste transport and lawful disposal

All remediation works are being carried out strictly in accordance with this RAP.

### 3. Is this an immediate risk to students or staff at the school?

The material is being removed under strictly controlled conditions in accordance with our RAP, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017, which set out specific legal requirements for managing and removing asbestos safely. Additionally, the parish site is a significant distance from the schools, with the current school construction site as a buffer between the parish works and the operational schools.

### 4. Who will carry out the work?

The removal will be undertaken by a licensed asbestos removal contractor, as required under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017. All works must comply with both the legislative framework and the procedures specified in the Remediation Action Plan.

### 5. What safety measures are required?

Under our Remediation Action Plan and NSW law, the following controls will be implemented:

- Establishment of secure exclusion zones
- All works continuously reviewed by the on-site licenced hygienist to ensure works are being completed in accordance with the RAP
- Use of dust suppression techniques to prevent airborne fibres from exiting the site
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Decontamination procedures
- Frequent air monitoring
- Independent clearance inspection and certification

In addition, waste transport and disposal will comply with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, which regulates the lawful handling and disposal of asbestos waste.



**6. How will you ensure asbestos fibres do not spread to the school?**

The work area will be isolated, strictly monitored and controlled in accordance with the Remediation Action Plan and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017. Removal techniques are specifically designed to prevent the release of airborne fibres. Frequent air monitoring will take place to verify that fibre levels remain within safe exposure standards.

**7. Who regulates and oversees this work?**

Asbestos removal in NSW is regulated by SafeWork NSW under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulates the transport and disposal of asbestos waste under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. All works must also be completed in strict accordance with the approved RAP.

**8. What happens after the asbestos is removed?**

Upon completion of removal works, an independent licensed asbestos assessor will undertake a clearance inspection, as required under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017 and our RAP. A formal clearance certificate will be issued before the area is returned to normal use or further construction works continue.

**9. How long will this take?**

This is dependent on several factors such as the amount of ACM found and changes in weather. We will keep you updated on the progress.

**10. Who can I contact if I have further concerns?**

Please email the Project Team at [WestmeadProject@parracatholic.org](mailto:WestmeadProject@parracatholic.org)