

Hillarys Animal Beach - Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) Management

Frequently Asked Questions

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous crystalline mineral found in some rock formations. Three main types of asbestos have been mined and used in Australia: chrysotile (white asbestos); amosite (brown asbestos); and crocidolite (blue asbestos) from Wittenoom in Western Australia.

How did the asbestos containing material (ACM) get here?

As early as the 1920's beach shacks made mostly of asbestos sheeting and corrugated iron were built along the Hillarys, Whitfords and Pinnaroo Point coastline.

In the 1970's the beach shacks were demolished with some of the material buried on site.

How long has the City been aware of the ACM?

The City first started receiving reports of potential ACM at the Hillarys Animal Beach in November 2021 which was being exposed as a result of ongoing dunal erosion from wind and wave action.

What has the City been doing to manage the ACM?

The City has been engaging a specialist contractor since November 2021 to carry out regular inspections and hand picking of potential ACM.

In 2022 the City engaged a consultant to develop an Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) Preliminary Assessment. The objective of this assessment was to assess the nature and extent of ACM contamination at this location and potential risk to relevant site users.

Results from the assessment indicated that the ACM fragments were generally bonded, weathered but in good condition. The risk to site users was considered low.

The City was recommended to continue regular inspections and hand picking of ACM.

The City also completed extensive rehabilitation works in April 2023 to the dunes including the hydro mulching of approximately 6,000 square metres to stabilise the foreshore dune.

Have the appropriate regulatory authorities been notified?

Following receipt of the ACM Preliminary Assessment report, the City submitted a Form 1 'report of a known or suspected contaminated site' under the *Contaminated Sites Act* along with the ACM Preliminary Assessment report to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) in January 2023.

What is the public health risk?

DWER has advised that the risk to human health is low as the ACM Preliminary Assessment report indicates ACM quantities remain below the Department of Health's assessment levels for parks and public space land use.

What should I do while visiting the beach?

Remain on existing pathways and keep out of the dunes. Ensure animals and children do not play in the dunes. Do not touch any potential ACM if you see it, report it to info@joondalup.wa.gov.au

What is the City going to do moving forward?

The City is working with a consultant to develop an Ongoing Site Management Plan for the site based on recommendations from DWER. Actions arising will be implemented once approval is received from DWER.

The City will continue with regular inspections and hand picking of potential ACM.

The City will soon be installing on-site signage to inform beach users.