



The Greater Metropolitan
Cemeteries Trust

Lasting memories, peaceful places.

Northern Memorial Park

Asbestos discovered during works

COMMUNITY UPDATE | JUNE 2017

What happened?

During development works at Northern Memorial Park, a small quantity of asbestos was unearthed by a GMCT-engaged contractor.

The contractor informed GMCT and we enacted our asbestos management plan. Further investigation by the contractor's asbestos-ticketed workers highlighted that the materials were non-friable asbestos.

Non-friable asbestos (i.e. not crumbling) poses a lesser risk to health, safety and the environment than friable (i.e. crumbling) asbestos.

The site has been fenced off with relevant signage and dust screens in accordance with current regulations.

What happens next?

A qualified asbestos hygienist to report on the materials, define their scope, recommend removal techniques and provide material assessment and final clearance certificates.

Once these assessments have taken place, the materials will be removed and disposed of via the appropriate channels safely.

Why was asbestos present in the cemetery?

The asbestos appears to be present with general building rubble (bricks and concrete), most likely present at the time of Northern Memorial Park's establishment.

Does the presence of asbestos mean there will be more?

Although possible, it is unlikely that any more

asbestos will be unearthed. If further materials are uncovered, the same management policy will be implemented and all identified soil of concern will be safely removed.

Will the soil in the area be affected?

When the asbestos was found, isolation and exclusion zones were put in place. Further investigation has been conducted by digging test trenches for scoping the area according to our asbestos management plan.

There may be further control measures as a result of the hygienist report. It is safe to conduct burials in the adjacent areas.

Is it still safe to visit the area?

Yes. All precautions and hazard controls have been enacted in accordance with current regulations. Qualified asbestos workers have implemented safety measures and signage and are satisfied any potential risk to health has been controlled.

Visitors, staff and members of the public are asked to follow any safety or other instructions during this time.

GMCT will ensure that all appropriate safety measures are maintained during this time and that all relevant legislation and regulations are complied with.

You can stay updated by visiting <http://gmct.com.au/community/>.

For further enquiries, please contact GMCT's customer care team on 1300 022 298 or email enquiries@gmct.com.au.