

# Rozelle Parklands Mulch Removal and Replacement FAQ

February 2024



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



## Overview

### How much asbestos has been found and where?

Sections of the Rozelle Parklands and associated sites within Rozelle Interchange tested positive for traces of bonded asbestos. The testing of mulch samples was undertaken by independent contamination consultants and has returned 17 positive results showing traces of “bonded” asbestos. Typically the samples were 3 to 5 grams, or the size of a 50 cent coin.

### Where has the asbestos come from?

The cause and origin of the asbestos in the mulch is currently unknown.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is carrying out an investigation into the cause of the contamination.

### Is the asbestos in the ground or in the mulch?

Currently, the asbestos has only been identified in mulch used in the landscaping however, prior to replacing the mulch, there will be a sign off approvals in place including a clearance certificate.

This is subject to the broader EPA investigation, we cannot comment further at this stage.

The EPA Accredited Site Auditor will review the methodology for the clearance of areas where mulch has been removed. Once completed, evidence of this process and of the Validation Report will be provided to them.

Continuous air monitoring will also be undertaken during the removal of the mulch and all removal works will be under supervision of a Supervisor with Class B Asbestos removal license at a minimum.



### Isn't the ground under the Parklands contaminated?

The Rozelle Parklands project was built on the former disused Rozelle Railyards site and was used as a construction site for over five years. Transport completed remediation for the site in 2018 which involved the remediation of hazardous waste and contaminants linked with its previous use as an industrial site.

The remediation of the former railyards was carried out in accordance with the licence and other relevant EPA requirements, including certification by an EPA accredited contaminated land auditor, that the land is suitable for parkland and open space recreation. Further contamination was removed during the Rozelle Interchange contractor's construction work at the site and it has all been signed off as clear of contamination by an EPA site auditor.

The site has been transformed into a public park, the Rozelle Parklands, in line with the planning approval from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

### What is the risk to public health?

NSW Health has advised the risk of illness for anyone who has come in contact with the material is low because the particles are relatively small and are bonded asbestos.

The type is known as bonded asbestos as it is chemically bonded to a solid material, such as cement. They are solid and rigid, with the asbestos fibres tightly bound within them and unlikely to be released into the air.



### Will rain increase the asbestos risk?

Bonded asbestos fibres cannot be released except in cases of extreme damage or severe weathering such as prolonged saturation or fire.

### What sort of mulch was used?

25mm recycled coarse timber mulch.

### How much recycled material is allowed in mulch?

Recycled timber mulches are a blend of recycled timber material and natural timber. The EPA Mulch Order (2016) does not permit any asbestos or preservative treated or coated wood residues to be present in any sort of mulch, however, acknowledges that mulch may contain extremely low and incidental amounts of engineered wood products and / or physical contaminants. The Mulch Order also states that "the processor must implement procedures to prevent the presence of engineered wood products and physical contaminants in the mulch."

### Where did the mulch come from?

The mulch was supplied by an EPA accredited supplier.

### How did the asbestos mulch pass quality testing when it was placed on site?

This is currently being reviewed as part of the investigation that the EPA is undertaking.

### Who will pay and will there be any penalties applied to the contractor and/or supplier for delaying the opening of the parkland?

The work will be undertaken by the Rozelle Interchange contractor in accordance with the project Deed. Transport's focus and priority is on the safe removal of the mulch and working to reopen the Rozelle Parklands for the community as soon as possible.

### Removal and Replacement Operations:

#### Are you removing all the mulch used as part of the Rozelle Interchange and Parklands project?

We are ready to remove mulch in all areas that have been identified by the EPA, in addition to a number of other publicly accessible areas.

Plans to remediate other areas outside the parklands which returned positive results to targeted sampling, including garden beds adjacent to the road and paths around the junction of the Anzac Bridge, Victoria Road and City West Link are underway.



We have received a further updated direction from the EPA and we will continue to engage with the EPA and remove and replace mulch as required.

### When will the Rozelle Parklands reopen?

The current target based on the existing EPA direction is for the park to gradually open in stages from March, and fully open in April 2024.

It's a complex undertaking and work began Tuesday 23 January to prepare the site to remove mulch. We commenced removal of the mulch at the eastern end of the Parklands near Victoria Road and are working towards reopening the Parklands in stages from late March.

### Why do you have to fully close the parklands?

We have committed to the EPA to remove the mulch safely and as quickly as possible, to comply with the SafeWork NSW guidelines this will require a full closure of the parklands.

### What is the method for removing the mulch and how do you know it is safe?

The mulch is being removed using a variety of techniques including hand tools to avoid damaging plants or trees.

Small excavators and vacuum trucks may be used with mulch placed in designated stockpiles before removal off site in covered trucks to a licenced waste facility that is licensed by the EPA to receive asbestos waste.

This is in accordance with SafeWork NSW Guidelines and Codes of Practice by suitably qualified personnel.

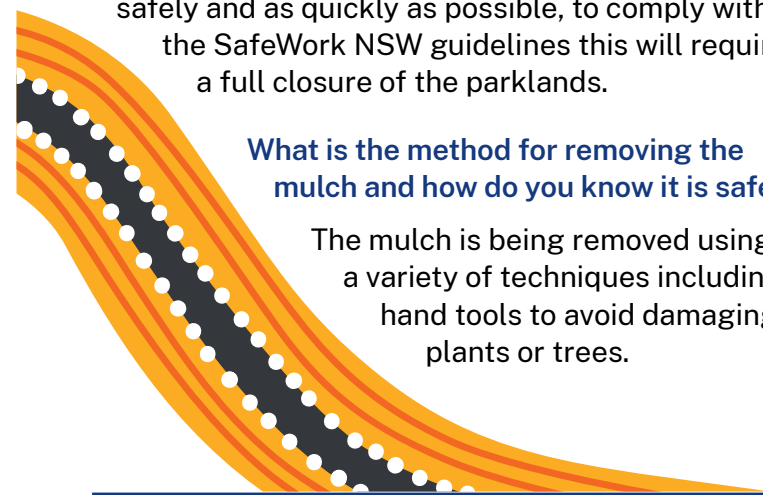
### Is there a risk the asbestos found in the mulch is or has been airborne?

The Rozelle Parklands and associated sites tested positive results for bonded asbestos. The non-friable (also known as "bonded") asbestos products are chemically bonded to a solid material, such as cement. They are solid and rigid, with the asbestos fibres tightly bound within them and generally less likely to be released into the air.

Air monitoring continues at locations within and around the Rozelle Parklands and test results have been below reporting limits.

NSW Health advises the risk of illness for anyone who has come in contact with bonded asbestos is very low.

More information can be found in the [Asbestos and health risks - Fact sheets \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-risks) or we also suggest contacting the Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/about-us/contact-us](https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/about-us/contact-us).





### Why are we only removing 10 tonnes? Why not more/less?

The amount of mulch to be removed from the premises will be greater than 10 tonnes.

\*The 10 tonne figure is an EPA defined measure used for regulation.

### Will mulch be removed immediately from the parklands?

The mulch will be stockpiled in designated locations within the Rozelle Parklands then it will be safely transported in covered trucks to a licenced waste facility that is licensed by the EPA to receive asbestos waste.

### How many people will be working on site to remove the contaminated mulch?

The number of workers is yet to be determined. Workers will be on site to methodically work through the park to ensure full compliance with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) clean up notice.. The number of workers may change in accordance with the program of work.

### What will you see?

As a safety precaution, all workers conducting the mulch removal works will be wearing disposable coveralls, that include a hood, masks, glasses, and gloves. All people involved in the mulch removal process are trained in asbestos handling protocols and follow strict procedures.

### Where will construction vehicles be entering and exiting Lilyfield Road?

There will be three main vehicle gates. One at the corner of Gordon Street and Lilyfield Road, one at the intersection of Denison Street and Lilyfield Road and one opposite Ryan Street. These will be clearly sign posted and we will use safety measures including traffic control.

### Will there be changes to how motorists, pedestrians and cyclists travel along Lilyfield Road?

Pedestrians will need to use the footpath on the residential side of Lilyfield Road. To ensure safety, pedestrian crossing points will be located at the corner of Lilyfield Road and Catherine Street and on the corner of Lilyfield Road and Gordon Street.



**Cyclists travelling along Lilyfield Road will need to use the existing cycle lanes marked on the road.**

Signage and traffic control will be in place during work periods to assist motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and commuters through these changes.

### Will there be a lot of trucks?

The number of trucks per day will fluctuate but there is expected to be a total number of 16 trucks per day.

### Is it safe to have trucks driving with contaminated mulch on board through local streets?

The risk will be controlled with strict requirements placed on the types of trucks used such as sealed and covered bins preventing any loss of material during transport.

### What route will the trucks take? Will they be going through residential streets?

Trucks carrying construction material will travel from the west along Lilyfield Road when entering site. They will take the same route when exiting the site and take Catherine Street to travel along City West Link.

### Where's the organic/replacement mulch from? How are you going above and beyond to be sure it's not contaminated?

The replacement organic mulch will comply with Australian Standards and be entirely from fresh natural sources. There will be no recycled content in the replacement mulch.

### How are you making sure the replacement mulch is contaminant free?

Replacement organic mulch will be tested by the suppliers, as well as independent qualified consultants to ensure the material is free of contaminants. The testing of the organic mulch will occur prior to delivery and then again once received at the parklands. This testing process will be reviewed by the EPA site auditor and all stockpiles of material delivered will be checked by a suitably qualified person prior to placement.

### How do we know if all of the asbestos has been removed from the parkland?

The area will be inspected by an independent qualified and certified consultant once the mulch has been removed. A clearance certificate will be issued by a licenced Asbestos Assessor.

### Will damaged plants, trees and landscaping works be replaced?

Yes. The Contractor will endeavour to minimise damage caused to the establishing parkland and if any damage occurs, these plants will be replaced prior to reopening.



### When will the Rozelle Parklands re-open?

**We are working to achieve the removal of the mulch by Thursday 29 February 2024** (as per the EPA clean up notice) subject to weather events and further EPA direction. A staged reopening allowing the first sections of the park and shared user paths to be opened gradually towards the end of March and into April, while works continue in other areas. We will continue to provide updates as the works progress.

### Why do you need to close the shared path? When will the shared path be accessible again?

Whilst mulch removal & replacement works in the park are underway, all shared user paths within the Parklands will initially be closed until further notice. Please revert to using bicycle and walking paths that were in place during the construction of the Rozelle Interchange Project and prior to the opening of the Rozelle Parklands.

### When will the work take place?

**Daytime works will occur Monday to Friday between the hours of 7am to 6pm and Saturdays between 8am to 6pm.**

Out of hours work will be required to undertake night work on arterial roads like Victoria Road, The Crescent and City West Link to remove and replace mulch. Due to day time traffic and to ensure safety of workers and motorists this work needs to happen at night. This work will take place during our weekly scheduled nightworks and will continued to be notified in our weekly email updates sent to the community every Wednesday.

### Are you monitoring the air while removing the contaminated mulch?

Air monitoring will be installed by qualified occupational hygienist at the following locations:

- stockpiles
- inside cabs of machines
- around active mulch removal work areas
- in pocket parks outside Rozelle Parklands.



The number of air monitors at each location is determined daily by the qualified occupational hygienist and is done to sufficiently surround the zone for monitoring.

Monitoring around the site for air borne particles has been in place and will continue throughout the clean-up work. Ongoing tests have not identified anything outside of normal parameters at this time.

## Community

### What are you doing to protect the community?

The safety of the community will remain a priority during the removal and replacement of the mulch.

The Rozelle Interchange contractor will maintain exclusion zones, conduct air monitoring, and use dust suppression to control the risk of airborne particles. Traffic control and signage will be in place during work periods to assist motorists, pedestrians, bike riders and commuters.

### How is dust being managed?

During removal and replacement works, the following methods are being used to minimise dust generation:

- dampening the surface of the mulch with low pressure mist water hoses before removing
- if stockpiles remain at end of shift and will be on site overnight they must be sufficiently covered

- air monitoring installed
- stopping work in strong winds
- employing controls to prevent the spread of loose material around the site such as sealed and covered bins on trucks
- fitting HEPA filters to vacuum excavator trucks
- exclusion zones maintained to active work areas.

### Will weather conditions like rain and wind impact the asbestos?

No. However, dust mitigation measures will be in place during high wind speed days and all stockpiles of mulch that have been removed, will be covered at the end of each day.

### What are you doing to minimise the parking impacts to Lilyfield Road?

The Rozelle Interchange contractor encourages workers to travel by public transport, to carpool and park away from the project site so as not to impact local residents, however, as this is a public road this cannot be enforced.

### How/when will the community get notified? How often?

JHCPB will continue to provide weekly construction notifications and update the [Rozelle Interchange Construction Portal](#).



### What will the Active Transport impacts be?

The Rozelle Parklands shared user paths were closed on Tuesday 23 January 2024 from 7am.

Please revert to using pedestrian footpaths and bicycle lanes that were in place during the construction of the Rozelle Interchange Project prior to the opening of the Parkland. Detour maps are at locations around the parklands and have been provided in construction notifications.

Detour signage was in place from Thursday 25 January and will be reviewed throughout the period of the clean up work. Transport is working with Digital map providers like Google and Apple to ensure their mapping tools are updated throughout this period.

### Will access to local bus stops change?

You will still be able to use local bus stops, however if you were using the shared user paths within the Rozelle Parkland to access these stops, you will need to take an alternative route. For those commuters using the Victoria Road Bridge Bus Stop, access via the pedestrian and cycle path and underpass stairs has been closed and you will be required to cross Victoria Road at the Gordon Street signalled lights intersection.



### Will access to Light Rail stop change?

You will still be able to access the Rozelle Bay Light Rail station, however if you were using the shared user paths within the Rozelle Parkland to access this station, you will need to take an alternative route. If you are commuting from the Rozelle side of the Parkland, you will be required to walk around the perimeter of the Parkland using Lilyfield Road and onto Victoria Road down towards The Crescent and access the station via The Crescent pedestrian and cycle path. Alternatively, you can access the Lilyfield Light Rail Station via Catherine Street.

### What is the status of the EPA investigation?

The EPA investigation is ongoing and the source of contamination has not been determined. The EPA will provide further information regarding the status of their investigation.

### What are the directions contained in the EPA notification?

The EPA Clean Up notice has directed Transport to remove mulch from areas in and around the Parklands which it defines as the "Premises", as specified in the notification by **29 February 2024**, and dispose of it at a facility appropriately licenced to accept it.

Transport has passed this notice down to be carried out by the Rozelle Interchange Contractor.



## How will people get to the Biennale Festival?

The Contractor will remove the mulch subject to the EPA notice by the **29 February 2024** and is working with Transport to ensure festival goers are informed of their travel options before the festival begins in March.

## How can I contact the team doing the remediation of the parkland?

If you would like to know more about the construction work, please contact us via the details provided below:

Phone: **1800 660 248**

Email: **info@rozelleinterchange.com.au**



## Contact us



Project Infoline **1800 660 248**



**info@rozelleinterchange.com.au**



**www.cportal.com.au/tfnsw/inner-west/rozelle-parklands-flythrough**



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