

# Stephenson Avenue Extension Project

## Asbestos Management Measures

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Background

The Stephenson Avenue Extension project will provide a new connection from Scarborough Beach Road to Cedric Street, including a new grade-separated interchange with the Mitchell Freeway to replace the existing Cedric Street interchange, and local road links to Ellen Stirling Boulevard.

#### Why do we need a stockpile site?

Most major infrastructure projects require stockpile locations to store and process materials used on the project.

#### Where are the project's stockpile areas?

The project's stockpile areas are near the Cedric Street temporary southbound on-ramps – Image 1.

#### Do we have approvals to use this site?

Yes, we received approvals from the City of Stirling to use the site. The City's mulch site is also nearby.

#### Did we know that the site was an ex-landfill site?

Yes, the project is aware that sections of the project are being delivered on the former Hertha Road landfill site.

#### What testing did we do prior to starting works?

Prior to commencement of works, the S2ME Alliance undertook an extensive sampling program to identify 'Potential Contaminants of Concern' (PCOC) associated with the landfill material.

This was completed by contaminated sites specialist consultants who conducted reviews of the landfill material, in line with the guidelines set out by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Australian Standards.



Image 1 – Stockpile areas

#### What did the test results show?

Samples were analysed at an independent, National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratories, and included testing for hydrocarbons, heavy metals and pesticides.

All soil samples analysed for PCOC returned results below the nominated DWER health and environmental assessment levels.

Asbestos was included in the analysis, but not found in the landfill material during the on-site investigations.

#### How does the project manage contaminated waste material?

All contaminated waste that leaves the site is removed by licenced and approved waste management contractors.

Project waste is tracked and audited to ensure it is handled in accordance with appropriate licencing requirements, in addition to detailed site assessments conducted before and during construction.

When hazardous material such as asbestos is identified, the project follows the requirements of the *Work, Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022*.

Complex management practices are in place to ensure community and worker safety.

### **What are the project's dust management practices?**

An approved environmental management plan outlines the requirements for dust management. This plan includes, but is not limited to, the use of water carts, soil binding materials, street sweepers, and modification of works where required.

During windier periods, the volume of water carts is increased. In addition, polymer soil binder is applied to stockpiles and trafficable areas, with trucks washed prior to exiting the stockpile site.

Activities that are likely to generate dust, such as loading and unloading trucks, are conducted in areas of the site less prone to wind conditions.

### **Why did works and vehicles movements at the stockpile area cease in early June 2024?**

We were made aware of community concerns regarding dust and potential health risks from the stockpile site and sample testing of the stockpile waste material by DWER identified suspected asbestos containing material.

As a result, all works and vehicle movements at the stockpile area (except the use of water carts for dust suppression, material testing, and asbestos and dust monitoring) ceased while further site investigations were underway.

### **When will works restart?**

Main Roads is undertaking a staged recommencement of works.

The first section of the site to restart works is the casting yard for the Stephenson Avenue bridge to the west of Mitchell Freeway. Works at this site recommenced on 27 June 2024. This will allow the incremental bridge launch works over the freeway to continue. Further works will recommence as industrial hygiene experts confirm areas are safe to resume works.

### **What type of samples were taken for analysis?**

Samples of asbestos in bonded form, such as solid fibre cement pieces, were taken from the stockpile. In addition, soil samples from the stockpile were also taken for analysis.

### **What were the preliminary results from the testing?**

Main Roads received preliminary results from the samples taken by DWER from the site's stockpile areas.

Samples which were in a bonded form were analysed and confirmed as asbestos containing material. However, soil samples returned results below the DWER health and environmental thresholds, including asbestos fibres.

In addition, airborne asbestos monitoring results, indicated that there is no evidence of airborne asbestos identified to date.

### **What does this mean for the community?**

The risk to community remains low. While asbestos containing material has been confirmed, it is found in a form that is likely to be low risk.

### **What further controls are in place?**

Dust suppression polymer will continue to be sprayed to minimise any spread of dust.

In addition, an extensive network of airborne asbestos fibre monitoring has been implemented at the site as well as workplace exposure monitoring.

Main Roads has appointed an accredited contaminated sites auditor, industrial hygienists and other contamination experts to undertake ongoing assessments and support the ongoing management of the site.

### **Further information**

For more information on the project, please call the Main Roads Customer Information Centre on **138 138** or email [enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au). To help plan your journey, please visit the [Main Roads Travel Map](#).

To provide feedback on how we are communicating with you, take our Customer Feedback Survey ([Stephenson Avenue Extension Project - Phase 2 | My Say Transport](#)).