

**From:** TRC Communications  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 December 2021 4:15 PM  
**To:** -All TRC Staff  
**Subject:** Friable Asbestos Update - Thursday 23 December, 2021

Good afternoon,

**What is happening?**

Any staff who want to return to Ray Walsh House (RWH) can do so from January 4 next year following the clearance from the occupational hygienist who formally certified it safe to return to the workplace.

**What do I need to know?**

Specialist cleaning at the site of the incident on Level 2 was finalised on Tuesday (21 December), and the third party occupational hygienist company engaged by TRC issued a Clearance Certificate after undertaking testing of the area. This allowed air conditioning repairs to proceed and replacement carpet and other furnishings installed. Further atmospheric and surface testing was done on Levels 1, 2 and 3 on Wednesday by the occupational hygienist, and none of the samples taken have showed presence of friable asbestos on these floors. The loading dock has also returned to full normal use.

**What did the work involve?**

We have stuck by our commitment to take a rigorous, systematic approach in response to the incident to ensure not just the immediate safety of anyone involved in the incident, but the safety of everyone who works in Ray Walsh House, regardless of how low the risk may be. This has included engaging qualified asbestos removalists and independent occupational hygienists to oversee the removal process; additional testing over and above what the current legislation requires and isolating workers from any potential fibres which may have been released into the atmosphere.

Whilst the process took some time, it was meticulous and precise to ensure any potential asbestos contaminated material was identified and removed safely.

The initial stage involved specialist cleaning of contaminated items on Level 2. There was also disposal of items which could not be cleaned such as a number of office chairs, carpet tiles, items of clothing and some personal effects in the immediate site of the incident. All hard surfaces were cleaned. Items needing disposal were wrapped and removed from the building. In the second stage, the environmental hygienists returned to RWH and tested surfaces and undertook air testing on Level 2. This afternoon we have received a clearance certificate for the contaminated area.

Finally, there was full testing across levels 1, 2 and 3 with atmospheric (air) testing and surface testing. This afternoon we have been notified the results are negative for the presence of friable asbestos.

**What is next?**

Any staff who are uncertain about returning to RWH will learn more about the incident and how our organisation plans to manage and maintain the building through a series of information sessions. The sessions will start after Monday January 10 and continue over two weeks.

All staff who work at RWH will be required to attend a session. Details of the dates and times will be provided in the new year.

The Risk and Safety team will continue to coordinate a formal investigation in the new year to review the initial cause and response to the incident as well as work with the maintenance team to develop recommendations moving forward.

It is expected all staff will return to their RWH workplace by Monday 24 January except for those who have Flexible Workplace Agreements or other arrangements in place and approved by their manager.

Anyone who continues to have concerns related to the asbestos incident after attending an information session is able to have an individual discussion.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I would like to thank all staff for their understanding and patience since the Level 2 incident which has added another disruption to the workplace after an already challenging year. In particular I would like to formally recognise the teams from Building Services, Risk & Safety and People and Culture for their work to help us safely navigate this situation.

For more information click here: [Friable Asbestos Incident | Staff Intranet \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

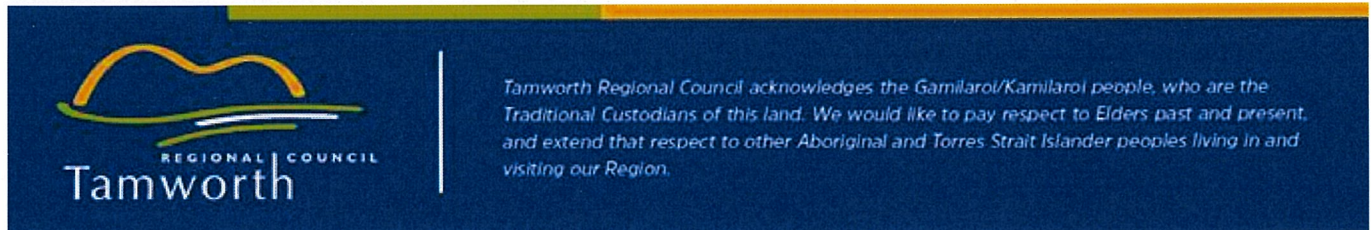
Thank you,

**Jason Collins**

Executive Manager Strategy and Performance

**P** 02 67675448 | **M** 0439 652 598 | **E** [j.collins@tamworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:j.collins@tamworth.nsw.gov.au)

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**From:** Cowan, Nicole  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 December 2021 3:40 PM  
**To:** Collins, Jason <[j.collins@tamworth.nsw.gov.au](mailto:j.collins@tamworth.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Final draft - Friable Asbestos Update - Thursday 23 December

Dear Jason,

Here is the revised draft following my char with George.

Please let me know if you would like further changes made. Do we ant to put anything in about staff being allowed to collect personal items from their desks or water plants?

Thanks,  
Nicole

## **What is happening?**

Any staff who want to return to Ray Walsh House (RWH) can do so from January 4 next year following the all clear from the specialist environmental hygienist company which has formally certified it is safe to return to the workplace.

## **What do I need to know?**

Specialist cleaning at the site of the incident on Level 2 was completed on Tuesday (21 December) with the specialist environmental hygiene company issuing a completion certificate after further testing. This allowed air conditioning repairs to proceed and replacement carpet and other furnishings installed. Further testing was done on Levels 1, 2 and 3 on Wednesday and the results showed no presence of friable asbestos. The loading dock has also returned to full normal use.

## **What did the work involve?**

The initial stage involved specialist cleaning of contaminated items on Level 2. There was also disposal of items which could not be cleaned such as a number of office chairs, carpet tiles, items of clothing and some personal effects in the immediate site of the incident. All hard surfaces were cleaned. Items needing disposal were wrapped and removed from the building.

In the second stage, the environmental hygienists returned to RWH and tested surfaces and air testing on Level 2. This afternoon we have received a clearance certificate for the contaminated area.

We have stuck by our commitment to take a rigorous, systematic approach in response to the incident to ensure not just the immediate safety of anyone involved in the incident, but the safety of everyone who works in Ray Walsh House, regardless of how low the risk may be. This has included a full testing across levels 1, 2 and 3 with atmospheric (air) testing and surface testing. This afternoon we have been notified the results are negative for the presence of friable asbestos.

## **What is next?**

Any staff who are uncertain about returning to RWH will learn more about the incident and how our organisation plans to live with the building through a series of information sessions. The sessions will start after Monday January 10 and continue over two weeks.

All staff who work at RWH will be required to attend a session. Details of the dates and times will be provided in the new year.

It is expected all staff will return to their RWH workplace by Monday 24 January except for those who have Flexible Workplace Agreements or other arrangements in place and approved by their manager.

Anyone who continues to have concerns related to the asbestos incident after attending an information will be spoken with on an individual basis.

On behalf of the Executive Team, I would like to thank all staff for their understanding and patience since the Level 2 incident which has added another disruption to the workplace after an already challenging year. In particular I would like to formally recognise the teams from Building Services, Risk & Safety and People and Culture for their work to help us safely navigate this situation.

For more information click here: [Friable Asbestos Incident | Staff Intranet \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Thank you,

## **Jason Collins**

Executive Manager Strategy and Performance

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*Tamworth Regional Council acknowledges the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our Region.*