

From: TRC Communications
Sent: Tuesday, 7 December 2021 4:33 PM
To: -All TRC Staff
Subject: Level 1, 2 and 3 of Ray Walsh House closed

Good afternoon staff,

What is happening?

There will be no access to Level 1, 2 and 3 of Ray Walsh House until further notice.

Why is it happening?

[Friable asbestos](#) has been detected in a small area on Level 2. The Kable St end of Level 2 needs to be sealed and specialists are being contacted to decontaminate the IT area as soon as possible. The Peel St end of Level 2 is undergoing further testing as a precautionary measure. Level 2 shares the same air space as Level 1 and 3 so as a further precaution we are conducting testing on these floors to ensure the safety of our staff.

Ground floor and Level 4 operate on a different system and are not at risk.

How did this happen?

An air duct detached from the main aircon/duct system and fell onto the Level 2 roofing. This impact and has disturbed the dust in the ceiling which contains asbestos particles.

When did this happen and when will it be fixed?

Council's Risk and Safety staff were notified yesterday, Monday 6 December, at 12:35pm of the potential issue.

Testing results received this morning, Tuesday 7 December, confirmed that the particles were friable asbestos.

Directly impacted staff on Level 2 were evacuated from the area yesterday as soon as the incident was notified.

The remaining staff on Level 2 and all staff on Level 1 and 3 have been asked to work from home or an appropriate alternate location from today as a precautionary measure.

We anticipate that we will receive testing results for Level 1 and 3, and the rest of Level 2 tomorrow and should be able to inform staff when they can return to the building by COB tomorrow.

Level 2 will be closed until further notice. Once it has been assessed by the asbestos removalists we will be able to provide a more definite timeline.

Where do I find out more information?

We have created a page on MILO that has a range of information on this incident and the support available to those impacted.

We will continue to post regular updates onto this page.

We are working closely with those directly impacted and are offering them medical and mental health support.

Safe Work have been informed of the incident and we will continue to work with them and other specialists throughout the remediation process.

If you have any questions regarding this incident please speak to your supervisor and/or manager.

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.