

Richardson Park Project update

The Northern Territory Government is enhancing and activating community and recreational areas for all Territorians to enjoy.

The revitalisation of Richardson Park is well underway with foundation works finished and civil components now over 40 per cent complete. The Northern Territory Government is revitalising the park and building a new road access into Ludmilla Primary School, while preserving the sporting significance of the site.

The redevelopment includes:

- a road extension of Richardson Drive to the Ludmilla School boundary, improving accessibility to the school and overall safety for parents and students
- significant earthworks and drainage infrastructure to provide a new and improved field and new grassed areas for recreation
- new trees to provide shaded areas throughout the site to compliment the native vegetation of the adjacent “bush block” maintained by the Ludmilla Creek Landcare Group
- a public ablution facility
- change rooms and equipment storage to support user groups
- community infrastructure, including exercise and playground equipment, undercover areas and BBQ facilities
- a well-lit shared path network with CCTV to maximise activation of the site, reduce anti-social behaviour and provide connectivity with Ludmilla School
- all necessary services including electrical, water, sewer and telecommunications, and
- historical acknowledgement of the long history Rugby League has with Richardson Park, including Warren ‘Shadow’ Mount.

A tender will be released shortly for the building component of the works including the ablutions block, change rooms, storage areas and associated undercover area.

All work on-site is anticipated to be completed in the first half of 2023.

Asbestos Management

It is relatively common to find asbestos or asbestos containing material (ACM) on brownfield developments around Darwin due to a combination of the clean-up post Cyclone Tracy and illegal dumping.

Investigations are undertaken to try identify and quantify the volume of ACM prior to works. This can, however, be difficult to do as actual asbestos material is typically in relatively small quantities and concealed under buildings or within large volumes of fill material.

Stakeholder Notice

An unexpected find protocol is implemented on all projects to ensure any concealed asbestos is treated in a manner that protects the health of both workers and the public.

Relatively low quantities of concealed asbestos have been found within isolated areas of soil on the Richardson Park site during the project.

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL) has proactively engaged with the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Agency (NT EPA) throughout the project to address ACM in a safe and efficient manner.

It was determined, in collaboration with the NT EPA, that containing the ACM within an appropriately encapsulated cell on site was the most safe and cost effective treatment option available. ACM has already been safely contained within the cell onsite and any additional ACM found will also be contained within the cell.

An environmental consultant and independent environmental auditor have been engaged throughout the project to plan and oversee the treatment of ACM in a safe and efficient manner in consultation with the NT EPA.

DIPL appreciates the patience and understanding of residents during this construction period. It is acknowledged living adjacent to an active work site comes with short-term inconvenience to amenity.

For any further information or if you have any queries, please contact the project team via communications.dipl@nt.gov.au