UNEXPECTED CONTAMINATION FINDS PROTOCOL

PROJECT	**John Gorton Campus Carpark**
ADDRESS	**Dorothy Tangney Place, Parkes, ACT**
REVISION	**1**
ISSUE DATE	**2 June 2023**

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide information and guidance on how to safely conduct works when there is an Unexpected Contamination find. This procedure is to be read in conjunction with the Environmental Management Plan for the John Gorton Campus Carpark. The overall Environmental Management Plan for the John Gorton Campus Carpark align with the standards below.

1.1 FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
Australian Heritage Council Act 2003
National Environment Protection Council Act 1994
National Environment Protection Measures (Implementation) Act 1998
Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997

1.2 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

General Environmental Legislation	Environment Protection Act 1997 Environment Protection Regulation 2005
Laws relating to the administration of planning and environmental management	Commissioner for the Environment Act 1993 Magistrates Court (Dangerous Substances Infringement Notices) Regulation 2004 Magistrates Court (Environment Protection Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005 Magistrates Court (Litter Infringement Notices) Regulation 2004 Magistrates Court (Nature Conservation Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005 Magistrates Court (Pest Plants and Animals Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005 Magistrates Court (Plant Diseases Infringement Notices) Regulation 2005 Magistrates Court (Tree Protection Infringement Notices) Regulation 2006 Magistrates Court (Utilities Water Conservation Infringement Notices) Regulation 2006
Laws relating to water, oceans, rivers and waterways	Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 Lakes Act 1976 Utilities Act 2000 Utilities (Water Conservation) Regulation 2006 Water and Sewerage Act 2000 Water and Sewerage Regulation 2001 Water Resources Act 2007 Water Resources Regulation 2007
Other laws relating to parks, vegetation and land use	Tree Protection Act 2005 Plant Diseases Act 2002 Nature Conservation Act 1980 Nature Conservation Regulation 1982 Nature Conservation ACT 2014
Laws relating to heritage	Heritage Act 2004 Heritage Regulation 2006
Laws relating to animals	Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005 Animal Diseases Regulation 2006
Laws relating to the atmosphere and clean air	Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Act 2004 Electricity (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Regulation 2004
Laws relating to dangerous goods etc.	Dangerous Substances Act 2004

	Dangerous Substances (General) Regulation 2004 Dangerous Substances (Explosives) Regulation 2004 Dangerous Goods (Road Transport) Act 2009
Laws relating to waste and sewage	Litter Act 2004 Waste Minimisation Act 2001 Waste Minimisation Regulation 2001

2 SCOPE

This procedure applies to all works relating to the John Gorton Campus Carpark construction works. The objective of this procedure is to document the management responsibilities, controls, and procedures to mitigate potential environmental and human health impacts associated with unexpected contamination finds that may be encountered during construction works.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Who	Responsible for
HSE Manager	Ensuring the implementation of this procedure across all sites and offices.
Project Manager	The Project Manager has overall responsibility for the implementation and compliance of this procedure on project sites.
Site Manager	Ensuring compliance to this procedure for all unexpected ACM finds or other contaminants.

4 DEFINITIONS

An unexpected find is defined as potential contaminated land that was not previously identified in project management plans (and sub-plans) or during pre-construction investigations.

For the purposes of this plan, contaminated land comprises land within the project area that meets the definition of contamination in the Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy. This includes asbestos.

5 POTENTIAL UNEXPECTED FINDS CHARACTERISTICS

5.1 PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS

May be identified by either odour and/or visual indications of contamination. Petroleum hydrocarbon contamination may be identified by characteristic petrol, diesel or 'oily' odours (e.g. hydraulic oil) which may vary in strength from weak (just detectable) to very strong (easily detectable at a distance from the source).

In soils, the odour may or may not be accompanied by specific areas of dark staining (black-grey) or larger scale discolouration of strata from a previously identified 'natural colour' (e.g. staining of orange and brown clay to dark grey and green.) May also be visible as a distinct coloured sheen on water within an excavation.

5.2 BURIED DRY WASTE MATERIALS

May include a variety of construction and demolition waste materials including wood, plastic, metal fragments, building rubble (e.g. concrete, brick, asphalt, asbestos containing materials etc.).

5.3 BURIED OR SURFACE BONDED ACM, ASBESTOS FINES/FRIABLE ASBESTOS

May include a variety of construction and demolition waste materials including wood, plastic, metal fragments, building rubble (e.g. concrete, brick, asphalt, asbestos containing materials etc.).

5.4 BURIED ORGANIC MATERIALS

Such materials may be associated with decomposed plant matter found within the natural alluvial soils. Although this process is generally naturally occurring, by-products of the decomposing natural material should be considered if encountered.

5.5 STRUCTURES OR CONDUITS CONTAINING POSSIBLE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Could be identified as follows:

- A buried storage tank or former pipelines (typically metal, concrete or plastic).
- Deeper sand fill sometimes with visual/olfactory indications of contamination.
- Presence of small concrete footings surrounding by odorous of visually impacted soils and/or groundwater.

5.6 ASH OR SAND DEPOSITS

Ash materials are typically light weight, grey and white sand and gravel sized particles (1mm to 10mm). Slag materials can be varied in consistency and colour and may comprise pale grey to blue/green/grey and be loose or cemented. Slag gravels can be very angular and appear to have a vesicular (i.e. 'honeycomb') texture.

5.7 LANDFILL TYPE MATERIAL

Could include a combination of the other categories detailed in this table along with domestic (e.g. rag, clothing), clinical (e.g. sharps, human tissue or hair, laboratory specimens or culture), and/or putrescible waste (e.g. food scraps, nappies, animal waste).

5.8 OTHER UNUSUAL ODOURS

Other unusual odours that a different from surrounding soils. For instance, a sweet odour could indicate the presence of chlorinated hydrocarbon contamination.

5.9 PER – AND – POLYFLUORALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

Foaming in waters (e.g. in excavations, dewatering sumps or discharge) with little agitation and minimal dissipation.

5.10 BURIED DRUMS

Metal or plastic drums containing potentially unknown hazardous substances. It is noted that management of drum contents may require specialist hazmat contractors. Drums should not be opened to inspect contents until a qualified hazmat contractor has been engaged to assessed potential risks

6 PROCEDURE

6.1 STOP WORK IMMEDIATELY

a) Leave the area and alert nearby workers.
b) Report the incident to your Supervisor, Site Manager, or Barpa Safety Coordinator/Manager.
c) Workers or the person controlling the workplace who believe a worker or workers have or may have been exposed to asbestos, ACM, or other contaminant must be decontaminated as soon as possible.
d) In certain cases, such as finding asbestos, clothing must be treated as waste and disposed of in the appropriate waste bags with any disposable PPE and the wet wipes used for

decontamination. Any item that can't be decontaminated such as socks must also be disposed of asbestos waste; and

e) Workers suspected of being exposed to asbestos, ACM, or other contaminant should undertake a baseline medical examination as soon as practical after the exposure.

6.2 INFORM WORKERS AND ISOLATE AREA

a) Inform workers to clear the workplace until the hazard has been contained.
b) Establish a suitable exclusion zone (minimum of 10 metres) using barricades and warning signs to restrict access. The size of the zone should be based on the nature of the disturbance and advice from asbestos assessor, occupational hygienist or competent person. For asbestos, anything less than 10 metres will require asbestos air monitoring to be conducted at the exclusion zone boundary. For other contaminates, this will be based on the advice of the occupational hygienist or relevant competent person.
c) Consult a licensed asbestos assessor, occupational hygienist or competent person for advice should access within the exclusion zone be unavoidable (for example for essential maintenance), prior to entering the exclusion zone.
d) Minimise disturbance of the material; and
e) Workers must wear minimum PPE of P2 respirator (P3 preferred), disposable coveralls and boot covers should emergency access to the exclusion zone be required.

6.3 INSTALL WARNING SIGNAGE

a) Asbestos/ACM or other appropriate warning signs must be positioned at all points of entry to the contaminated area.
b) If **NO** warning signs are onsite, use danger flags or normal warning signs as a temporary measure; and
c) If asbestos/ACM or other contaminants are assumed or confirmed, warning signs will be obtained for use when asbestos or ACM or other contaminants are being removed or used in the case of an unexpected find.

6.4 REPORTS TO REGULATOR

a) Evaluation of the incident by the Barpa HSE Manager/Coordinator will determine if the Regulator should be notified such as in incidences of uncontrolled escape, spillage, or leakage of asbestos, and
b) Notify the regulator immediately or within a maximum of 24 hours after becoming aware of the incident if the Barpa HSE Manager/Coordinator determines it is required.

6.5 ASSESSMENT, REMOVAL AND DECONTAMINATION

a) Engage a licensed asbestos assessor, occupational hygienist or competent person who will inspect, test, and assess the area and the material and provide advice for remediation/decontamination; and
b) Engage a licensed hazard removalist to safely remove the contaminated material and decontaminate the area in accordance with WHS regulations.

6.6 AIR MONITORING

a) Air monitoring should be conducted by a licensed asbestos assessor, occupational hygienist or competent person with the analysis conducted by a NATA accredited testing facility.

6.7 CLEARANCE AND REOCCUPATION

a) No unprotection persons are permitted into the affected area (except asbestos removalists) prior to a Clearance Certificate being issued, and
b) After decontamination and air monitoring has been completed a licensed asbestos assessor, occupational hygienist or competent person can conduct a clearance inspection and issue a Clearance Certificate prior to reoccupation.

6.8 UNEXPECTED CONTAMINATION FINDS – FLOWCHART

Please note the below flowchart refers to asbestos, however the same process will be followed for any unexpected contamination find.