

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C1246

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 20 October 2015

Hon Kate Doust to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Minister for Transport.

I refer to the asbestos found near Perth station as part of the city's Kings Square development and the answer to my question of Tuesday 13 October 2015 number 1108 and I ask:

1. Can the Minister for Transport advise why the contractor declined to undertake the removal works and the details of the alternative contractor engaged?
2. Can the Minister assure the House that the asbestos was removed in accordance with the guidelines in place that control the removal, transportation and disposal of asbestos found in the community?
3. Can the Minister assure the House that workers and the public were protected from potential exposure to the asbestos?
4. Can the Minister advise when the removal of the asbestos on site occurred, who undertook the removal and where the asbestos was removed to?
5. Once the Minister became aware of the asbestos reports, did he issue any directions to the Department? If so, what were these directions?
6. Will the Public Transport Authority be undertaking an audit of asbestos contamination in the surrounding areas and updating their asbestos register accordingly?

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### **I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.**

The Public Transport Authority (PTA) advises that the works concerning the identification of asbestos are not related to the King Square development.

1. The original contractor declined to undertake the works as they felt they did not have suitable experience for asbestos removal in soil. Therefore, the PTA engaged an alternate contractor Civcon Civil and Project Management Pty Ltd, to undertake the asbestos remediation.

2-3. Yes. As confirmed by the Worksafe WA Inspector. This was confirmed in a media statement issued on October 9 2015. I table the attached document.



4. The asbestos contaminated material was removed between 7 October 2015 and 9 October 2015. The excavation was undertaken by Civcon Civil and Project Management Pty Ltd. Removal from site was undertaken by Australian Civil Haulage Pty Ltd and disposed of at a site on Walyunga Road, Bullsbrook through Brajkovich Demolition and Salvage (WA) Pty Ltd.

5. The PTA provided a briefing note to the Minister for Transport on the matter and no further action was deemed necessary. Worksafe WA inspected and approved the asbestos removal as was publicly stated in a radio interview by Worksafe WA and as reflected in the tabled document.

6. All reasonable investigations have been previously undertaken. Chance encounters with previously unknown pockets of contamination are a possibility when working on a brownfield site. Appropriate management procedures are in place should unidentified contamination be encountered and these have been successfully implemented for the Horseshoe Bridge construction site.





## ***Media Statement***

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October 9, 2015

### **WorkSafe inspection declares Kings Square construction site safe**

An inspection by WorkSafe of the Kings Square construction site has concluded the site is safe for workers and members of the public.

WorkSafe inspectors attended the site on October 8, 2015 following a report that a small amount of asbestos was found in a trench near the Horseshoe Bridge.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Lex McCulloch said he was confident the site was safe for work to continue.

"Operators of the site organised for the removal of the asbestos in accordance with the strict guidelines in place that control the removal, transportation and disposal of asbestos found in the community," Mr McCulloch said.

"As the site has previously been used for many purposes over many years, there is a very strict sampling and testing regime in place to ensure workers and members of the public are not exposed to any contaminants.

"Our inspectors have scrutinised the frequency and the results of testing of the samples during excavation of the site and WorkSafe is certain that that there is no current risk to the health or safety of workers on site or anyone who may live or work nearby."

Further information on construction safety can be obtained by telephoning WorkSafe on 1300 307877 or visit the website at [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au).

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