

Media Release:

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Asbestos Found at Casuarina Coastal Reserve

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) advises that white asbestos (chrysotile) has been found along the shoreline at Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

Parks and Wildlife Service Director of Park Operations Digby Whyte said action in removing the material from the shoreline would begin shortly and urged the public not to touch any material in the area that may be asbestos.

“We have looked at a variety of methods of removing asbestos to ensure that we have a management plan that is efficient and safe for both residents and the environment, and this removal process will begin as soon as possible,” said Mr Whyte.

“Public safety is our main concern and we want to ensure that people are safe while enjoying this popular reserve.

“We have erected signs along dune access points to inform the public that asbestos has been found in the area, along with an image so they can see what the material looks like.

“These small chunks of chrysotile are non-friable and are therefore not considered a high health risk, but we urge people to heed the signs and avoid directly handling this material.”

Reports of possible asbestos at Casuarina Coastal Reserve were reported to NRETAS last week.

Parks and Wildlife Service rangers worked with members of the public to gather samples, which were tested by an independent company and confirmed to be chrysotile.

Mr Whyte said some residents believe small amounts of the material may have been coming and going with the tides for years, and it is possible that its presence will be ongoing.

“We believe it may have drifted over from the Nightcliff foreshore, as asbestos has been found there, but that is something we need to examine further,” said Mr Whyte.

Members of the public who have health concerns regarding asbestos should contact their general practitioner.

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Media Note – For more information, contact Digby Whyte on 8999 4561.

Image – A sample of chrysotile found recently at Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

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