

# Health, Safety & Environment Summary Report and Western Springs College Health & Safety Policy: Frequently asked Questions

**Note: When the Health, Safety and Environment Summary Report was received, two further reports were pending: a Landfill Gas Assessment Report, and a Contaminated Land and Landfill Gas Management Plan. They have since been provided and are available at the school office.**

## Q. Who prepared the report?

The report was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and prepared by Chancery Green Environment Law, and Strategy and Golders Associates, in conjunction with the proposed redevelopment.

## Q. The report recommends a more comprehensive study of the cap and top layer of soil to inform and assist decisions on the WSC redevelopment. Has this been undertaken?

The Ministry of Education has received this information as part of its consideration of the redevelopment options, to advise Ministers.

## Q. With regard to landfill gas, how will the gas monitor be used (where, when, how often)?

General users of the school are not at risk from landfill gas. A monitor has been in use in the wharenuī to measure landfill gases. At no time has it registered gas levels which would give rise to concern. Two further gas monitors are to be purchased to enable a permanent monitoring regime for the wharenuī and on-site residence. A portable gas monitor has been purchased for use by trained staff and contractors when entering confined spaces or conducting earthworks.

## Q. If the person trained to use the gas monitor leaves what's the follow up?

Four staff members have been trained by health and safety specialists: the property manager, two deputy principals and the after-hours security manager. A training schedule is being prepared and the machine will be re-calibrated every six months.

## Q. What are the procedures to manage the risks to contractors, especially with regard to landfill gas escape as a result of hot works, excavation, and in confined spaces?

The relevant spaces will be clearly identified. The gas monitor will be used before entering a confined space and during the works (including ground excavation work). All contractors will undertake a health and safety induction requiring them to confirm they are aware of this risk. Contractors' qualifications relevant to site specific health and safety risks are being collected to match contractors to jobs.

## Q. What are the lead paint, ACM and PCB management plans?

The lead paint in the administration block is being removed in the term break and the area is being repainted. One area of asbestos (a screen and cladding in the changing rooms) has been removed. Remaining asbestos is contained in closed off spaces to which students have no access and will be inspected regularly. This is considered safe. Contractors will be trained and certified as above. A PCB removal plan is underway.

## Q. What about the effects of landfill gas?

The Landfill Gas Assessment Report found that general users are not at risk from landfill gas.

**Q. Is footwear required on the fields?**

A soil contamination assessment completed since the Health, Safety and Environment Summary Report has found no risk to users. The fields have been treated with sand and soil over several years. The two northern fields are maintained regularly, using a significant amount of the annual grant negotiated for site maintenance. The Board considers the recommendation overly cautious given the subsequent findings. Staff are actively monitoring and maintaining the fields and report no issues with sharp objects or leachate.

**Q. What is the detail of the on-going air quality monitoring regime to counter weather-tightness issues at TAPAC?**

Testing and specialist cleaning of the TAPAC studios has not indicated any problems. On-going monitoring has to date confirmed that the spaces are not a risk to health.

**Q. A robust programme of active maintenance is recommended. What's the plan for between now and rebuild (or other chosen option).**

The school has appointed a Health and Safety Co-ordinator who has responsibility for creating and executing procedures in accordance with the policy. The Ministry has funded a Health and Safety consultant to advise WSC management on Health and Safety issues and liaise with the Health and Safety Co-ordinator to ensure best practice process is put in place.

**Q. What about the other reports mentioned in the Health, Safety & Environment Summary Report?**

At the time of receipt of the Health, Safety and Environment Report, two further reports had not been received (Landfill Gas Assessment Report and Contaminated Land and Landfill Gas Management Plan). They have since been received and can be found at the school office.

**Q. My teenagers have been involved in a Meola Creek restoration project, as well as biology activities along the creek. What's being done to ensure health and safety there?**

In 2011, Wai Care partnered with a number of schools and other parties that bordered Meola Creek on a restoration project. An extensive health and safety check was completed and appropriate measures taken. The Biology Department uses the banks and the creek for activities including insect sampling, planting and water testing. The Rumaki is continuing the relationship with Wai Care, restoring the banks and undertaking water sampling. All students must wear closed in footwear; wear gloves when planting; and must wash hands after water sampling activities. Risk management assessments are carried out and first aid kits are on hand.

**Q. Why does the summary report end abruptly? Do we have the full report?**

This is the summary provided to the Board by the Ministry of Education. A copy of the full Health, Safety and Environment Report is available from the school office.

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