



# Media release

For immediate release

Date: 29 March 2014

## Lords air monitoring test results

At the request of the City of Subiaco, Site Environmental & Remediation Services Pty Ltd (SERS) has undertaken airborne asbestos fibre monitoring and tape swab sampling at Lords recreation centre.

As stated in section six of the report, all of the air monitoring results were reported as less than 0.01 fibres per millilitre, consistent with normal background concentrations and considered satisfactory in accordance with current national Safe Work guidelines.

These results are ten times lower than the occupational criteria of 0.1 fibres per millilitre as outlined in the *Adopted National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment [NOHSC:1003(1995)]*.

SERS is NATA accredited and the monitoring was conducted in accordance with the *Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition [NOHSC:3003(2005)]*.

City of Subiaco CEO Stephen Tindale said: "These results are very encouraging and should provide comfort and reassurance to Lords members, users and staff who are concerned about exposure to asbestos.

"The advice that we have received is that asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that only poses a serious risk to health when a significant number of airborne fibres are inhaled. I am greatly relieved that the independent expert has provided these facts which we can share with the Lords community and our broader stakeholder groups.

"The results of these tests indicate that it would be safe to reopen Lords however council's decision to bring forward to the removal of all asbestos and replace the roof will eliminate any ongoing concerns about the safety of the centre."

In addition to the airborne testing, 54 tape swab samples of surface dust were taken from elevated, undisturbed surfaces (three to six metres from the floor surface) throughout the building. While eighteen samples returned positive results for the detection of asbestos fibres, the presence of fibres in dust is not in itself an indication of health risk.

The locations of these samples were in non-accessible areas within the roofline of the recreation centre and are highly unlikely to be disturbed by the users or employees of the facility through daily activities.

The *Code of Practice for the Management and Control of Asbestos in Workplaces [NOHSC: 2018 (2005)]* clearly states that air monitoring, not settled dust sampling, is the appropriate methodology for determining health risk.

The full SERS report, *Asbestos Consultancy Services, Lords Recreation Centre, 29 March 2014*, is available on the City of Subiaco's website at <http://www.subiaco.wa.gov.au/CityofSubiaco/media/City-of-Subiaco/Things-to-do-in-Subi/Lords-recreation-centre/Asbestos-Consultancy-Services-Lords-Recreation-Centre-29-March-2014.pdf>

For general information about asbestos exposure, download *Asbestos: A guide for householders and the general public* from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing's website at [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm/\\$File/asbestos-feb13.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-enhealth-asbestos-may2012.htm/$File/asbestos-feb13.pdf)

For more information about the temporary closure of Lords, visit [www.subiaco.wa.gov.au/lords](http://www.subiaco.wa.gov.au/lords)

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### **Notes to Editor**

The City of Subiaco is recognised as a local government leader in a range of areas such as environmental and social initiatives, and long-term planning for the future. It is located in the inner metropolitan area of Perth and includes the suburbs of Subiaco, Daglish and parts of Nedlands, Shenton Park, Crawley and Jolimont. A major centre for employment with a diverse and growing business sector, the city provides important services including waste collection, town planning and public recreation facilities, to more than 19 000 residents. The city aims to maintain its vibrant sense of community and enhance the lives and well-being of everyone who lives, visits and works in Subiaco. For more information about the City of Subiaco, visit **[www.subiaco.wa.gov.au](http://www.subiaco.wa.gov.au)**