

Wickham Wool Store Fire Recovery Update

Clean-up update

Your property may have been impacted by debris from the Wool Store fire at Wickham earlier this month and we'd like to give you an update on the clean-up:

- More than 200 households have now been given the all clear to return home.
- Over 400 reports from residents have been made to the Environment Line.
- More than 100 independent clean-up personnel have been deployed to work in the area.
- Soil sampling in impacted suburbs and Islington Park has tested negative for the presence of asbestos.
- Assessment, cleaning and clearance of public spaces is largely complete, including roads, footpaths, parks and gardens.

It's important to remember that while some public areas have been cleaned and given clearance, it's possible for the occasional fragment to be blown into the area. This includes Islington Park, which has been reopened and is being inspected daily by the City of Newcastle. Green bin collections are set to safely resume in the impacted suburbs in the coming days.

If you find more suspected debris in an area that's been cleaned, please report it to the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555 so that the area can be listed for inspection and re-cleaning if necessary.

Clean-up is continuing to focus first on homes that have been most affected by debris. If you're unsure about whether your property has been

affected by debris from the fire, please contact the EPA Environment Line on 131 555. **If you have already reported suspected asbestos debris, you will be contacted as soon as possible.**

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), Public Works Advisory, NSW Health and the City of Newcastle are all working together to clean-up your community.

Air monitoring update

All air monitoring results continue to be below the limit of detection in impacted suburbs including in Wickham, Hamilton North, Islington, Georgetown, Mayfield, Maryville, Tighes Hill and Waratah. You can visit our website to check the latest results.

Further information and support

Thank you for your patience.

For **regular updates** please visit the City of Newcastle website (<https://newcastle.nsw.gov.au/wickhamfire>) or the EPA's website (go to <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/news/2022/wickham-fire-clean-up-update> or use the QR code below).



If you need to call the EPA's Environment Line you can reach us on 131 555. You can also read more detailed, updated information on a range of topics including the impacts to human health on the [EPA website](#).





Asbestos debris. Photo: Hazmat Services

please see below information to help you identify debris and possible asbestos.

What does asbestos look like?

Asbestos specialists have advised that the asbestos is likely to be Super Six which was previously a commonly used construction material in older buildings and is now banned. The images show some of the asbestos debris from the Wickham fire. If you have identified debris like this in your backyard, gutter or gardens please contact the EPA.

You can also visit the NSW Government asbestos checker website to find out more:

<https://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au/identify-asbestos/how-do-i-know-if-its-asbestos>.

If you suspect you have asbestos debris from the Wool Store fire on your property, please call the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555.

NSW Environment Protection Authority

Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

EPA 2022P3601

Updated 18 March 2022

The EPA [disclaimer](#) and [copyright](#) information is available on the EPA website.

Not sure if you're impacted by debris?

The EPA has received reports of debris from the Wool Store fire impacting properties in Wickham, Islington, Georgetown, Maryville, Tighes Hill and Waratah. Not all homes in these suburbs have been impacted. Information from FRNSW rapid assessment reports indicates that debris from the fire that landed on properties was fragments of bonded asbestos with some loose fibres. If you are unsure if your property has been impacted,