A number of asbestos dump sites were identified by the community at the Gaythorne community meeting or through calls to 13HEALTH. The risk associated with possible dump sites relates to whether asbestos continues to be present, and if so, it is placed on the Environmental Management Register (EMR) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The EMR is a planning tool that provides information on current and historical land uses, including whether the land has been or is currently used for a notifiable activity\(^1\), or has been contaminated by a hazardous contaminant. Notifiable activities are activities that cause or are likely to cause contamination. Sites listed on the EMR are considered 'low risk' to human health or the environment under the current land use. Listing on the EMR does not mean that the land must be cleaned up or that the current land use must cease.

Some sites listed on the EMR may have a Site Management Plan (SMP). An SMP may be developed where a site investigation has shown it would be acceptable for some contamination to remain on the land provided it is properly managed. Each SMP sets out clear conditions on how the land must be managed so as to prevent the remaining contamination from causing environmental harm or posing a risk to human health.

Where a site has not been listed on the EMR, it will be assessed, and if found to contain asbestos of significant quantities, actions taken could include removal and backfilling with clean material, capping to prevent erosion and re-exposure. If appropriate, access to the exposed asbestos contamination will also be restricted pending remediation.

Inspections of the sites below were conducted on the 10 December 2014 by an Environmental Health Officer of the Metro North Public Health Unit and Environmental Officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Outcomes of the site inspections are detailed below.

### Glen Retreat Road, Mitchelton (earlier creek, and Mitchelton State Primary School)

Previously a large lot was listed on the EMR for asbestos manufacturing or disposal. The lot has since been subdivided and the large lot removed from the EMR. DEHP has advised that a site investigation report by a qualified person found the site is no longer contaminated.

**Site inspection outcome:** There is some evidence that erosion has occurred along the banks of a creek at this location (situated adjacent to the southern end of Mitchelton State Primary School); however there was no indication that the cap at this site has been breached. Several small pieces of fibro, likely containing asbestos, were found along the banks of the creek. The asbestos pieces were found lying on the surface, rather than embedded in the ground, which indicates that these were more likely the result of illegal dumping. Brisbane City Council has this week organised to have the loose asbestos collected and removed.

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\(^1\) The Environmental Protection Act 1994 contains a listing of current notifiable activities including (but not restricted to) the following land uses: service stations, cattle dips, tanneries, landfills and refuse tips.
Hoben Street Mitchelton (street and nearby creek)

A check of records maintained by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) has revealed that number of lots on the Hoben Street have been placed on the EMR for notifiable asbestos manufacturing and landfill activities. The sites are currently used as parkland. The sites have been classed as managed, i.e. a site management plan is in place to ensure that asbestos contamination on the site presents a low risk to the persons who use the parklands.

**Site inspection outcome:** No asbestos materials were found at either the Hoben Street parkland or the nearby creek (located approximately south-east of the parkland). The caps at both sites also appeared intact.

Duke St Gaythorne: Nearby creek

A large parcel of land on Duke St was previously listed for notifiable activity asbestos manufacture or disposal but has since been deleted from the EMR. DEHP has advised that the site was deleted on basis that it was found not to be contaminated.

**Site inspection outcome:** This site has been fully developed, with houses now located along the entire street. Furthermore, there was no evidence of a creek, suggesting it has been covered over with landfill. There was also no evidence suggesting that the cap at this site has been breached.

Hurdcotte St Enoggera (between Our Lady of Assumption and Mott St)

1. The site containing Our Lady of Assumption School and the adjacent former Mount Maria Junior on South Pine Road are on the EMR recognising asbestos manufacturing, waste storage, treatment or disposal. The sites have been classed as managed, i.e. a site management plan is place to ensure that asbestos contamination on the site presents a low risk to the persons who use the site.

   **Site inspection outcome:** No asbestos materials were found at this site. There was also no evidence that the cap has been breached.

2. It is further claimed that the sports fields at the rear of Hillbrook and OLA schools contain asbestos waste.

   **Site inspection outcome:** No asbestos materials were found at this site. No evidence was uncovered suggesting this was an asbestos dumping site.

Creek located at the end of Lade St Gaythorne

The creek is not listed on the EMR. A large base parcel of land in this area was formerly listed for asbestos manufacture or disposal. This has since been subdivided and the base parcel has been removed from the EMR. The lot has since been subdivided and the large lot removed from the EMR. DEHP has advised that a site investigation report by a qualified person found the site is no longer contaminated.

**Site inspection outcome:** The creek at the end of Lade St appears to be a man-made channel. No asbestos materials were observed at this site. There was also no evidence that the cap at this site has been breached.
Kedron Brook Gaythorne: Landfill along creek contained waste

The creek is not listed on the EMR. Information received from the public indicates that asbestos dumped along the creek may have been concentrated on the banks behind Kedron Brook Hotel, located at 167 Osborne Rd, Mitchelton. The investigation into former factories that is currently underway will investigate community concerns and take risk based actions to mitigate risk from asbestos materials along the creek bank.

**Site inspection outcome:** Several small dinner plate sized pieces of fibro material, likely containing asbestos, were observed at two locations along the banks of this creek. Although Kedron Brook Creek appears to have experienced some soil erosion, there was no further evidence of asbestos contamination. As is the case with Glen Retreat Road above, the asbestos pieces were found lying on the surface, rather than embedded in the ground, indicating these were more likely the result of illegal dumping. Brisbane City Council has also this week organised to have the loose asbestos collected and removed.

McConaghy St Mitchelton: former farm

A large parcel of land in this area was formerly listed on the EMR for asbestos manufacturing or disposal. The lot has since been subdivided and the large lot removed from the EMR. DEHP has advised that a site investigation report by a qualified person found the site is no longer contaminated.

**Site inspection outcome:** Due to the lack of detail provided in relation to the specific location of the farm, it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where along McConaghy Street it was situated. There is currently a pony club at 171 McConaghy Street (at the far northern end of McConaghy Street, next to Kedron Brook Creek), which comprises a sizeable field (approximately 200m x 80m), and was considered the most likely site for a farm. There was no evidence that the cap at this site has been breached, nor were any asbestos materials observed. There was no evidence of any other likely asbestos dumping sites located anywhere else along McConaghy Street.

Summary

All seven sites inspected were considered to be intact, with no evidence that any caps had been breached. Importantly, no asbestos ‘seams’ were found, which would be expected if a cap had experienced significant erosion. Although several small pieces of asbestos fibro were observed along Kedron Brook Creek and the creek located near Glen Retreat Road, Mitchelton, this is not unusual for these sites. Indeed, the asbestos pieces were found lying on the surface, rather than embedded in the ground, which indicates that these were more likely the result of illegal dumping.