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MEDIA RELEASE

CLEAN UP OF HISTORIC PINNAROO CONTAMINATION TO BEGIN

Work is proposed to commence next week to safely remove asbestos containing material from a section of the former railway reserve in Railway Terrace North, Pinnaroo.

The contamination is on the north-west corner of the land, where former railway cottages were demolished in the late 1970s. The scattered fragments of material were confirmed as being a non-friable asbestos cement containing material by a contractor engaged by Southern Mallee District Council. It is believed the contamination is historic, and related to residual material from the cottages' demolition.

Council has engaged professional asbestos consultants to assess and then remediate the site. The asbestos consultants have assessed the material as a low risk however they will remediate the site utilising safe work methods and develop a site management plan for future reference.

Southern Mallee Chief Executive Officer Jason Taylor said the discovery of the contamination on a site used by the public and close to the town centre and Pinnaroo Kindergarten was of significant concern.

"As soon as the possibility of asbestos contamination was raised, Council acted swiftly to confirm this, appoint experts to assess the extent of the contamination, and prepare a plan for the remediation of the site," Mr Taylor says.

The affected area is about 22,000sqm and includes the former dwelling sites and a section of the former rail yards.

Council's contractors will be onsite to begin the clean-up from Monday 18 January 2021. The community is advised to adhere to any warning signs in place and avoid the area around the site during this time.

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Media contacts:

Southern Mallee District Council Chief Executive Officer Jason Taylor
P: 0447 717 751 | E: Jason.taylor@southernmallee.sa.gov.au