



Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities

Year in review 2013

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Chief Executive message

The Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) has again demonstrated the value of cross-agency collaboration with significant achievements in 2013. This includes the launch of the State-wide Asbestos Plan, the implementation and promotion of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils and the successful annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign for 2013.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan, launched in April 2013, targets 62 initiatives around four priority areas: Research, Risk Communication, Prevention and Coordination to secure the safe management of asbestos and to reduce the unacceptably high incidence of asbestos-related diseases in NSW.

The Model Asbestos Policy has been well promoted in 2013 with Asbestos Management Workshops held across the state and guidance material developed to assist NSW Councils in adopting and implementing the Model Asbestos Policy.

The 2013 Asbestos Awareness Campaign ran in November 2013 highlighting a very significant and successful asbestos awareness campaign to educate the NSW community about the risks of exposure to asbestos during home renovations and maintenance.

Betty the ADRI (Asbestos Diseases Research Institute) House – a mobile house which depicts common areas where asbestos may be found in and around the home, travelled extensively around NSW to help raise public awareness and featured at many key events including The Sydney Royal Easter Show, the HIA Home Show in Sydney, numerous council and agriculture shows and Bunnings Warehouse stores who now proudly support the campaign.

Stakeholder engagement has continued to strengthen with the Asbestos Awareness Campaign reaching to local councils and associations across the nation.

I have been very pleased with the progress made on the strategic priorities of the HACA and this report highlights the extensive work undertaken by all government agencies and local councils in the safe management of asbestos.

The HACA is a very visible demonstration of how partnerships can benefit the NSW community and looking forward the HACA will continue to strengthen its relationship with national and state government agencies, local councils, community groups, research institutions and other key stakeholders and the public.

I thank our people and partners for their continued support and we will continue to work hard to further enhance the value of the HACA.

Julie Newman *PSM*
Chair, Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities
Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover NSW

Collaboration and engagement

The HACA aims to ensure that government agencies and local councils coordinate the safe management of asbestos through improved coordination and key prevention programs.

The HACA is chaired by WorkCover NSW with senior representatives from:

- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DPI)
- Division of Local Government (DLG)
- Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
- Ministry for Police and Emergency Services
- Ministry of Health (Health)
- Department of Trade, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTRIS)
- Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board (DDB)

Community engagement

The HACA and its members partnered with the Asbestos Education Committee, the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI) and Asbestos Disease Foundation of Australia (ADFA) for the annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign.

The Asbestos Education Committee (AEC) comprising representatives from NSW Government (WorkCover), James Hardie Industries and the Australian Trade Councils Union has been established to fund and promote education campaigns for the benefit of the Australian public on the dangers of asbestos. HACA play an integral role in the AEC Asbestos Awareness Campaign through the joint funding of the campaign.

ADRI was established by the Asbestos Diseases Research Foundation, a charitable, not-for-profit foundation, as Australia's only purpose built research facility dedicated to preventing asbestos-related diseases. AEC work in partnership with ADRI to deliver the annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign.

The Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia (ADFA) is a not-for profit organisation working to provide support to people living with asbestos related diseases, family members, carers and friends. ADFA is supported by the Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board through funding of the ADFA Asbestos Awareness Day event at Darling Harbour as part of the annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign.

Industry engagement

The Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee (DACC) has been established to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address health and safety issues in the asbestos and demolition industry in NSW.

The Electricity Industry Asbestos Safety Working Group has been established to provide an important forum to ensure the effective management and control of asbestos in the NSW electrical industry and to secure good practice management of workers with asbestos-related diseases.

HACA members have been working with the Woodsreef Asbestos Taskforce to secure the health and safety of the local community through the safe remediation of this abandoned mine site.

National engagement

HACA members have been working with the national coordination group, The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA), to improve coordination between regulators in regard to the illegal importation of products and materials containing asbestos. A working group has been formed to identify issues, explore ways of addressing them and make recommendations on the most effective ways that they can be resolved by agencies, regulators and key stakeholders

HACA seeks improved coordination at all levels of government and has secured a New South Wales' representative on the national Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council. The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and Council have been established to provide a national focus on asbestos issues which go beyond workplace safety to encompass environmental and public health issues and includes the development, implementation and monitoring of a national strategic plan.

State-wide Asbestos Plan

State-wide Asbestos Plan

The State-wide Asbestos Plan launched in April 2013 aims to secure the safe management of asbestos to reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases in NSW and targets actions around the four priority areas:

- Research
- Risk communication
- Prevention
- Coordination.

The Implementation Plan highlighting 62 initiatives in the four priority areas commenced 1 July 2013.

A table of key actions that were undertaken during 2013 is contained in this report.

Implementation highlights

- NSW Government adoption of the State-wide Asbestos Plan
- Implementation and adoption of the Model Asbestos Policy across NSW Councils
- Comprehensive Asbestos Awareness Campaign
- Regional and metropolitan tours by Betty the ADRI House including key events such as the Royal Easter Show
- Asbestos and Demolition Web Search facility to help the community easily locate asbestos removal and demolition contractors
- Consistent asbestos awareness training and safety procedures across the electrical supply industry
- Coordinated response to asbestos management following natural disasters including bushfires, storms and cyclones
- Representation on cross jurisdictional working party to assist with the development of the *National Strategic Plan on Asbestos Awareness and Management 2013–2018*.

Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils

LGNSW, in partnership with the NSW Government, has developed a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils to provide councils with the basis for the preparation of a comprehensive and compliant asbestos policy. It outlines important legislative obligations of councils and provides useful additional information.

The Model Asbestos Policy has been issued to all councils by the Division of Local Government under section 23A of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

LGNSW has held ten Asbestos Management Workshops across NSW in 2013 to support councils in adopting the Model Asbestos Policy.

The workshops give participants the opportunity to explore the roles and responsibilities of councils in safely managing asbestos and features expert presenters, council case studies and group activities to help outline useful strategies.

Implementation highlights

- 89 Councils and approximately 340 staff attended Asbestos Management Workshops held across NSW
- Asbestos and Telstra communication pits advice circulated to all councils
- Asbestos Management Decision Tree for NSW Councils
- Guidance material developed for councils regarding health monitoring and personal protective equipment following feedback from workshops
- For the first time, an Asbestos Management Award (sponsored by WorkCover) was awarded to a NSW council at the Excellence in the Environment Awards.

Asbestos Awareness Campaign

The HACA, in partnership with the AEC and ADRI, co-funded an annual Asbestos Awareness Campaign in 2013. The campaign aims to alert Australians about the dangers of working with asbestos during home renovations and maintenance and includes:

- campaign theme and slogan – Renovation Roulette
- update of the asbestosawareness.com.au website including a new site for mobile device use
- 'Betty the ADRI House' campaign tour to metropolitan, regional and rural NSW
- funding of a safety awareness segment on the Better Homes and Gardens lifestyle program on national television which aired on 1 November 2013
- community and local council engagement
- Blue Lamington morning teas for asbestos awareness.
- securing support from Bunnings Warehouse for point of sale asbestos safety information
- media kit development, distribution and case study engagement
- development of promotional materials
- lighting of Opera House Sails and candlelight tribute for those people affected by asbestos-related disease
- Asbestos Ambassador engagement.



Betty the ADRI House was launched during Asbestos Awareness Week in November 2012 and is the first of her kind in Australia. She is a community engagement and experiential awareness initiative of the Asbestos Education Committee in partnership with the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI).

Betty is a purpose built, mobile model home designed to demonstrate where asbestos might be found in and around any Australian home built or renovated before 1987. Her exterior resembles a typical fibro home ... but when opened up, she has extensive audio and visual information including a bathroom, kitchen, living room, man shed/garage and a dog house.

Betty is escorted by two dedicated volunteers, Geoff and Karen Wicks who have already attended many Betty events assisted by staff of HACA member organisations and local councils. Betty visits communities around Sydney and New South Wales, primarily to community events, council activities and DIY or renovation expos educating Australians about asbestos dangers.

In July 2013, Betty embarked on her first regional tour of Northern New South Wales and in August toured through the Central West and Blue Mountains region. Betty covered more than 3800 kilometres and covered over 26 communities.

During the Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign in November, Betty travelled 2438 kilometres and made 29 individual appearances. To ensure local community engagement, Betty was hosted by 17 councils around NSW.

The Asbestos Awareness Campaign has received the support of Bunnings Hardware Stores and Betty has made appearances at 19 store locations: Penrith, Warrarong, Shell Harbour, Mittagong, Rouse Hill, Bonnyrigg, Gosford, Lakehaven, Thornleigh, Narellan, Port Stephens, North Parramatta, Villawood, Seven Hills, Campbelltown, Minchinbury, Caringbah, Bankstown and Liverpool.

Betty has also attended a number of events including the Royal Easter Show (2013), Sydney HIA Home Show, AgQuip, National Asbestos Conference Sydney, Lighting of Sails at Circular Quay, ADFA Memorial Day at Darling Harbour, Ausgrid Learning and Development Centre and the Endeavour Energy Learning and Development Centre.

Traffic to the asbestosawareness.com.au website increases when Betty is on tour.

Since the launch of Betty and the campaign, the number of visits to the website increased by 186.7% with total number of visits since launch reaching more than 85,000 and achieving more than 400,000 page views.

The Asbestos Awareness Campaign was once again fortunate to have the ongoing support of our Asbestos Ambassadors and home renovation media personalities: Don Burke, John Jarratt, Scott Cam, Scott McGregor, Cherie Barber and Lindsay Farris. Our Ambassadors attended events and conducted media interviews.

The Blue Lamington morning teas were offered during asbestos awareness month as an opportunity for workplaces to informally discuss issues about asbestos safety at work and in the home.

Print, radio and television community service announcements or publicity materials were distributed to radio, TV and media outlets. In NSW the advertisements were aired as community announcements on Channels 7, 9 and 10, and radio stations 2GB, 2CH and Koori Radio.



Schedule for actions

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Research

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
1. Provide epidemiological/research studies and report on trends and risk profiles using data from available sources including DDB, the Australian Mesothelioma Registry and the Dust Diseases Tribunal. Seek funding sources including NHMRC to support research.	HACA	Work underway with the DDB regarding collation of epidemiological trends data for NSW using data sources from the DDB, Dust Diseases Tribunal, Coal Services, WorkCover and the Australian Mesothelioma Registry.	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Assess the cost/benefit of current screening practices and develop evidence based guidelines for screen and health surveillance monitoring.	DDB	Scheduled for 2015–16.			✓	✓
3. Develop evidence-based guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of malignant Mesothelioma.	ADRI/Health	In Australia there were no guidelines specifically written for the diagnosis and treatment of malignant Mesothelioma. The guidelines were developed to provide evidence-based recommendations for the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with malignant pleural Mesothelioma. The evidence-based guidelines were endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council on 2 July 2013. The guidelines will provide health professionals with reference standards to review their own practice and assist teams in planning clinical treatment pathways and provide patients and their families with the necessary information to appraise their diagnostic and treatment options.	✓	✓		
4. Maintain a biobank to provide a research resource for the development of early diagnostic markers and new treatment options for mesothelioma.	ADRI	In the ADRI laboratory a variety of molecular and biological techniques are being applied to blood and tissue specimens stored in the ADRI Biobank.	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Conduct research to develop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> best practice protocols for asbestos-related disease management screening technologies for disease detection. 	ADRI	On 31 July 2013, the ADRI announced a world first clinical trial into a newly developed drug therapy for the treatment of Mesothelioma, a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos fibers, arising from the cells lining the thoracic and abdominal cavities. The treatment options for asbestos-related cancers are very limited and effective new therapies are urgently needed. The clinical study is based on research from the ADRI, which has uncovered a novel way to inhibit the growth of malignant mesothelioma. The protocol for the clinical study has been completed. The study will start in 2014 by determining the safety of this novel treatment approach in patients who have failed on previous therapy.	✓	✓	✓	
6. Review literature, incidents and issues to establish a watch list of emerging asbestos hazard issues to monitor, manage and promote information and learning's.	HACA/ADRI	Scheduled for 2014–15		✓	✓	
7. Review research priorities into asbestos-related issues.	HACA	Scheduled for 2014–15		✓	✓	

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Research						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
8. Facilitate NSW Government agencies' participation in partnership grants to fund priority research areas. Encourage partnerships and collaboration through interdisciplinary research and centres of research excellence in asbestos.	DDB/WorkCover Grants Scheme/ Environmental Education Trust	Scheduled for 2014–15		✓	✓	
State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Risk communication						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
9. Develop an education campaign with a focus on 'home renovators' by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Alerting those people to the dangers of asbestos o Alerting those people as to what products may contain asbestos and where those products may be found in existing households or other environments o Advising those people as to the steps that ought to be taken by people planning home renovations or who otherwise identify asbestos products in their home or other environment 	AEC	The first national Asbestos Awareness Month was launched on Friday 1 November 2013 at a candlelight tribute on the foreshore of Sydney's Circular Quay, the sails of Sydney Opera House were turned blue to honour of all those Australians who have lost their battle with asbestos-related diseases and those who will continue to fight asbestos-related diseases well into the future. The campaign is supported by celebrity ambassadors: Cherie Barber, Don Burke, Scott Cam, Lindsay Farris, John Jarratt and Scott McGregor. Throughout the month of November, there was a wide range of activities and events to raise awareness on the dangers of asbestos in workplaces, homes and throughout communities including Renovation Roulette television advertising, Blue Lamington Drives and Betty the ADRI House touring around Metropolitan and Greater Sydney. Betty the ADRI House is an experiential marketing tool designed for transportation to communities demonstrating where asbestos may be found in and around the home. Bunnings Warehouse supported the campaign and Betty the ADRI House visited a large number of Bunnings stores across metropolitan and greater Sydney to help raise awareness for home renovators and home maintenance. Betty featured throughout the year at key events including The Royal Easter Show, HIA Home Show and two extensive regional tours throughout Northern and Central West of NSW. Visits to asbestosawareness.com.au greatly increases when Betty the ADRI House is featured at events or on tour.	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. Encourage media organisations to help promote asbestos awareness through the use of articles and television segments on asbestos risks and safety in relevant shows, magazines and other media.	WorkCover	Film segment on Better Homes and Garden aired on 1 November 2013 to help launch Asbestos Awareness Month. The Better Homes and Garden crew selected a home to walk around and give tips on where to check for asbestos in the home and general information tips about asbestos. The Asbestos Awareness Month Campaign was extremely successful with strong national, state and regional coverage in television and print media.	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. Review all current guidance material to ensure accuracy, consistency and completeness.	HACA/DACC	The DACC has reviewed all asbestos related guidance material to ensure that all publications are relevant and current.	✓			

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Risk communication						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
12. Work with communities in regional, rural and remote regions of NSW, including the Aboriginal Land Councils and communities, to promote the safe management of asbestos.	HACA/LGNSW	Scheduled for 2014–15		✓	✓	
13. Develop a database of asbestos-containing products to improve knowledge of asbestos-containing materials and provide a reference tool for occupational hygienists, asbestos assessors, industry and the general community.	HACA/WCA	Development of a unique website as a reference tool for identifying various types of asbestos products and relevant information that is easily accessible for all types of online users and target groups including occupational hygienists', licensed asbestos assessors building inspectors, trades people and the general public. The website will be launched mid 2014.		✓		
14. Undertake a coordinated government awareness raising campaign during National Asbestos Awareness Week held annually in November.	HACA/ADF/AEC	The HACA provided significant funding and support towards the Asbestos Awareness Campaign. The inaugural National Asbestos Forum was held in Sydney on Monday 25 November 2013 during asbestos awareness month. Betty the ADRI House was on display at the Queen Victoria Building during the forum.	✓	✓	✓	✓
15. Develop and issue a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	LGNSW/ NSW Councils/ HACA/DLG	The Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils was launched on 26 November 2012. A guide to the Model Asbestos Policy was also made available. The Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils' was released as a guideline under section 23A of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> on 14 May 2013. This means that councils must consider the Policy when developing, adopting and implementing asbestos policies for their local government areas.	✓			
16. Assist councils to adopt and implement the Model Asbestos Policy.	LGNSW/HACA	During 2013 LGNSW held ten Asbestos Management Training Workshops in Chatswood, Coffs Harbour (Waste Conference), Holroyd, Wollongong, Armidale, Ballina, Mudgee, Orange, Wagga Wagga and Lake Macquarie. Representatives from WorkCover, EPA and the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services attended to the workshops to provide expert advice. Around 340 council staff from 89 different councils (59% of councils) completed the five – six hour asbestos management training workshops. The workshops provided an opportunity for councils to obtain expert advice on asbestos issues, discuss relevant legislation and its practical application with regulators and identify potential areas for improvement in managing asbestos. Further workshops will be held in 2014 and priority will be given to those regions where workshops have not yet been held. Numerous queries have been handled and in response to common questions, educative tools have been developed as noted under initiative 17.	✓	✓		

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Risk communication						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
17. Develop specific educative tools for training and workshops for local councils.	LGNWSW/WCA/ EPA	Guidance material was published online on the LG NSW website and circulated to councils including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos and Telstra communication pits: Advice for NSW councils Asbestos Management Decision Tree for NSW Councils Guidance material for Health Monitoring and Personal Protective Equipment. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
18. Develop a fact sheet for persons undertaking an exempt development that has identified asbestos is present.	DPI	Scheduled for 2014		✓		
19. Promote the local council asbestos fact sheet for inclusion on local council websites.	HACA	A Local Council fact sheet has been developed and promoted to NSW councils to provide consistent advice on all council websites.	✓			
20. Coordinate and disseminate information to local government through contact with individual councils and LGNSW to assist local government to ensure consistent information and advice is available to the public.	LGNWSW	Councils have been provided with communications tools and information on how to access educational resources to provide to the public including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos Awareness fliers Asbestos Awareness magnets EPA fliers Local council asbestos fact sheet Asbestos Awareness Month materials in local council kit Visits from 'Betty the ADRI house'. These items have been provided to councils at workshops, via email, by post and at conferences and forums. Councils were very supportive of the Asbestos Awareness Campaign with many councils registering on asbestosawareness.com.au and conducting asbestos awareness events, Blue Lamington Drives and media opportunities with Betty the ADRI House.	✓	✓		

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
21. Provide awareness initiatives for relevant government agencies, local government planners, council and private certifiers, environmental health and building personnel and environmental regulators/educators on roles and responsibilities in relation to asbestos issues.	WCA/DPI	Scheduled for 2015–16			✓	✓
22. Review the role of private and council certifiers in relation to the certification of building works where asbestos is present through consultation with the Building Professionals Board.	WCA/DPI	Scheduled for 2014		✓		
23. Develop practical guidelines/protocols for the control of the risks of naturally occurring asbestos during excavation, building, mining and road works.	WCA/EPA/ DTRIS	Scheduled for 2014		✓		

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
24. Develop a practical guide for the safe management of soil contaminated with asbestos-containing materials.	WCA/EPA	The draft guidance material has been developed by the EPA in consultation with WorkCover and the Ministry of Health. The guidance material has been reviewed and endorsed by the HACA with publication expected January 2014.	✓			
25. Provide improved mapping of naturally occurring asbestos and contaminated land sites in NSW to assist councils with land use planning.	DTRIS/EPA/ WCA	Improved mapping of naturally occurring asbestos has been undertaken by Trade and Investment NSW. A communication strategy will be developed in 2014 for the dissemination of maps to local councils to assist with civil construction projects and for land use safety studies.	✓	✓		
26. Manage the stabilisation and risk mitigation works for the Woods Reef Mine site.	DTRIS/ Woodsreef Taskforce	<p>Air Monitoring and Health Risk Assessment Project NSW Trade & Investment has engaged SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd to implement the Air Monitoring and Health Risk Assessment Project. The health risk assessment will assist the NSW Government in the long-term management of the Woodsreef Mine. The Woodsreef Taskforce has issued a fact sheet containing the tasks of the Air Monitoring and Health Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Demolition works NSW Trade & Investment has engaged the NSW Public Works to project manage the demolition works. A number of specialist consultants have been engaged to assist in planning the demolition works and environmental assessments. The overall planning phase of the demolition project has been extended to allow for additional assessment/studies relating to the threatened Large-eared Pied Bat roosting in the mill building. The Large-eared Pied Bat is listed as a threatened species under the <i>NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> and the <i>Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>. NSW Trade & Investment is committed to ensuring relevant environmental approvals are obtained before undertaking the demolition works. These approvals are a legal requirement under both State and Commonwealth law. The main demolition works are intended to commence in 2014, subject to environmental approval processes. NSW Trade & Investment and the Soil Conservation Service have conducted a comprehensive Sediment Movement Assessment of the site.</p> <p>Mine Road, Woodsreef Closure of the Mine Road is a key recommendation of the NSW Ombudsman's report Responding to the asbestos problem: The need for significant reform in NSW, November 2010. The Department of Primary Industries – Crown Lands Division has completed the community consultation process. Tamworth Regional Council as the Roads Authority consented to the closure of Mine Road.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
26. Manage the stabilisation and risk mitigation works for the Woods Reef Mine site (continued)	DTRIS/ Woodsreef Taskforce	<p>On 5 December 2013 the NSW Government announced that after much consultation with the community and health experts, a decision has been made to close Mine Road due to the associated risks from asbestos at the adjacent Woodsreef Asbestos Mine.</p> <p>Signage and Security</p> <p>A key initiative of the Woodsreef Taskforce was completed in June 2012 with the erection of warning signs for motorists approaching the derelict Woodsreef Mine site. The signs describe mitigation measures which will lessen the exposure risk for the travelling public. After the recent succession of vandalism towards the warning signs the Woodsreef Taskforce has involved the local authorities and is committed to the continued re-installation.</p> <p>NSW Trade & Investment has implemented additional security measures for the mine site including installing and maintenance of perimeter signage, and regular inspections of the perimeter fence and main access points.</p> <p>Further information</p> <p>Further information on the rehabilitation project can be found at resources.nsw.gov.au</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
27. Alert importers and suppliers to the risks and control measures to prevent the illegal import of asbestos goods.	WCA/HWSA/ Australian Customs and Border Protection	<p>The HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group was established to consider the importation of products and materials containing asbestos, identify issues, explore ways of addressing them and make recommendations on the most effective ways that they can be resolved by agencies, regulators and key stakeholders.</p> <p>One of the key areas of the working group is the recall and replacement of asbestos containing gaskets found in Great Wall, Chery and Geely vehicles (WA only).</p> <p>A recall has been conducted by the importer and the affected gaskets are being replaced within a framework that is aimed at minimising exposure to workers. Compliance verification is currently underway in all states and territories.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
28. Identify high risk imported goods that could contain asbestos including the purchase of asbestos products online.	WCA/HWSA/ Australian Customs and Border Protection	<p>The HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group is developing a Rapid Response Protocol to assist Regulators, Australian Customs and Border Protection and other agencies in handling future imported asbestos incidents including online suppliers.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
29. Promote implementation of workplace asbestos <i>Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011</i> and codes of practice which commenced from 1 January 2012.	WCA	<p>Asbestos Legislation Webinars were held through WorkCover on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 November 2012 • 4 April 2013 • 28 August 2013. <p>Legislative requirements were provided to Industry through the DACC and are available on the WorkCover website.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
30. Develop and maintain a comprehensive demolition and asbestos strategy to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of workers is protected.	WCA/DACC	<p>The DACC has been established to provide a consultative forum that can effectively address health and safety issues in the asbestos and demolition industry in NSW.</p> <p>The DACC meets on a quarterly basis and regularly shares information, exchanges views and provide constructive feedback and guidance about asbestos and demolition issues to promote continuous improvement of the safe management of demolition work and asbestos.</p> <p>The DACC is Chaired by WorkCover with representatives from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asbestos Removalists Contractors Association • Building Trades Group • Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union • Civil Contractors Federation • Demolition Contractors Association NSW • Land and Housing Corporation • Master Builders Association • Unions NSW. <p>The DACC is involved in the review of all asbestos-related publications to ensure accuracy and consistency and provides industry feedback on any new guidance material being developed.</p> <p>The DACC have played an integral role in the review of Demolition Training to ensure it meets industry standards.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
31. Target high risk occupations such as asbestos removalists, building, construction and electricity industry supply workers, waste and landfill operators, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and automotive mechanics to improve awareness, knowledge and skills in the safe handling of asbestos-containing materials.	WCA	<p>The Electricity Industry Asbestos Safety Working Group was established to provide an important forum to ensure the effective management and control of asbestos in the NSW electrical industry and to secure good practice management of workers with asbestos-related diseases.</p> <p>WorkCover Chairs the Working Group with representatives from Ausgrid, Delta Electricity, EPA, Electrical Trades Union of Australia, Eraring Energy, Macquarie Generation, Ministry of Health, National Electrical and Communications Association, Networks NSW, Trade and Investment NSW, Transgrid, and United Services Union.</p> <p>The Working Group completed the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an audit methodology and independent audit program to evaluate conformance with asbestos regulatory requirements. • Review audit outcomes and endorsed an improvement plan for key corrective actions completed by November 2013. • Ensure that asbestos registers and asbestos management plans comply with regulatory requirements. • Ensure that training and health monitoring provided to workers complies with regulatory requirements. • Update and harmonise industry operating procedures and asbestos removal prioritisation to ensure they are consistent and reflect regulatory compliance expectations. • Determine risk communication strategy for workers and others including consistent asbestos awareness training and safety procedures across the electrical supply industry. 	✓	✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
32. Undertake an annual compliance and enforcement monitoring and targeted audit program for licensed asbestos removalists, asbestos assessors and registered training organisations with a focus on complaint safety management systems including training, health monitoring, clearance certificates, safety management systems and safe disposal (checking of landfill receipts).	WCA	<p>There is a dedicated specialist Asbestos & Demolition Unit located within WorkCover.</p> <p>The specialist unit is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a 24 hour specialist response to complaints related to demolition and asbestos removal. • Delivery of information and education to stakeholders and the public. • Conduct of planned and targeted verifications on licence holders and registered training organisations undertaking asbestos and demolition training courses. • Monitoring of online notifications. • Strategic investigations with multiple agencies cooperation. • Review and feedback towards harmonised legislation. • Contributing to authorisation programs and policy for demolition and asbestos licensing. • Implementing initiatives in the State Wide Asbestos Plan on behalf of WorkCover. • Coordinating and managing asbestos and demolition stakeholder strategies including forums such as the DACC. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
33. Ensure ongoing inclusion of information on asbestos safety in training for apprentices in the building, construction, automotive and electrical supply trades.	WCA	<p>Ongoing liaison with the Industry Skills Council for inclusion of asbestos safety information to be incorporated into all relevant training courses.</p> <p>A generic asbestos awareness training course for the electrical industry will soon be available through the Industry Skills Council.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
34. Develop and foster industry networks to promote the safe management of asbestos.	WCA/DACC	Refer to Initiative 30 and 31.	✓	✓	✓	✓
35. Require NSW Government agencies to be exemplars of asbestos management and ensure that all government buildings, including government owned housing, have current asbestos management plans and asbestos registers.	WCA/GPNSW	Consultation has commenced with relevant agencies including Government Properties NSW (GPNSW) and Land and Housing Corporation to ensure that all government buildings have current asbestos management plans and asbestos registers in place.	✓	✓	✓	✓
36. Ensure sufficient procedures are in place for the approval of asbestos assessor licenses responsible for air monitoring and clearance inspections/certificates for friable asbestos removal work.	WCA	<p>Stringent processes are in place for the approval of asbestos assessor licences. When applicants apply for an asbestos assessor licence it is lodged with WorkCover licensing who review the documentation provided including confirming with their training organisation that the training records provided are valid.</p> <p>The evidence of experience is reviewed by a technical specialist including reference checks. Numerous applicants have been contacted in instances where additional information is required.</p> <p>When applicants fail to meet the minimum licensing criteria a letter is sent with information including the rights of appeal.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
37. Develop guidance material to assist asbestos assessors for undertaking the assessment of friable asbestos removal work.	WCA	Scheduled for 2014		✓		
38. Publish a listing of licensed asbestos removalists, demolition contractors and asbestos assessors on the WorkCover website.	WCA	The Asbestos and Demolition License Holder Search Facility was developed to allow the public easy access to find qualified asbestos removalists and demolition contractors within their local area. The search facility helps raise the awareness of using qualified licensed contractors when undertaking asbestos removal or demolition work to ensure there is no risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. As at December 2013 over 1000 licensed asbestos removalists and demolition contractors are listed on the web search facility and 106 Licensed Asbestos Assessors.	✓			
39. Increase the awareness of the homeowners when purchasing or renovating/ maintaining a property that may contain asbestos.	AEC	Refer to Initiative 9 The Asbestos Awareness Campaign 2013 primarily focuses on alerting Australians about the dangers of working with asbestos during home renovations and maintenance.	✓			

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
40. Implement a pilot program of home renovator asbestos removal kits similar to a program implemented by La Trobe Council, Victoria to promote the safe removal of asbestos in small home renovation jobs.	HACA/EPA	<p>The Waste Less, Recycle More initiative launched in 2013 is the largest waste and recycling funding program in Australia.</p> <p>It is a five-year \$465.7 million initiative led by the EPA to help achieve the State's recycling targets, stimulate investment in infrastructure and combat illegal dumping and littering.</p> <p>As part of an integrated approach to combat illegal dumping, the Minister has also announced two significant programs to make it easier for householders to dispose of small non-commercial amounts of asbestos waste and to implement prevention programs at known illegal dumping locations.</p> <p>The EPA has committed \$3 million to trial a new Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme that will waive the waste levy on asbestos in selected council areas for 12 months from 2014.</p> <p>The trial will pilot innovative approaches to increase the lawful disposal of asbestos and discourage illegal operators by reducing the financial advantage. As well as removing the levy on asbestos in participating areas, the EPA will contribute \$50 per tonne towards the costs of transporting and disposing of wrapped bonded asbestos.</p> <p>The trial will run at selected councils and businesses across the waste levy and non-levy paying areas and results will be evaluated by independent experts to inform future decisions regarding the proper asbestos disposal into the future.</p> <p>In addition, the EPA has also called for applications from interested local councils, land managers and community organisations to participate in a new Illegal Dumping Clean-Up and Prevention Program.</p> <p>The EPA has allocated \$2 million over the next four years to identify local dumping sites and implement prevention and clean-up action.</p> <p>For further information on the Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative visit environment.nsw.gov.au.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
41. Develop guidance material for the laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing and equipment for emergency personnel.	WCA in consultation with Emergency Services	Scheduled for 2014		✓		
42. Promote bi-annual exercises to test current emergency guidelines to ensure appropriate response levels for asbestos incidents.	HACA/ Emergency Services/ LGNSW/ Emergency Services	Natural disaster funding guidelines have been amended to accommodate asbestos arising from natural disasters. A draft Asbestos sub-plan is currently under development.		✓		✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
43. Promote asbestos-related emergency response plans through relevant government and council websites.	HACA	During 2013 there were a number of large scale natural disaster events which caused wide-spread asbestos contamination including bush fires, storms and cyclones. HACA agencies including WorkCover, EPA, Health and LGNSW worked extensively with the and Emergency Services to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach to the clean up of asbestos debris from these events with information available on all respective websites. Media releases were issued through Emergency Services, WorkCover, Health and LGNSW. A fact sheet: Property hazards following a bushfire was developed through the HACA.	✓	✓		
44. Encourage the use of economic incentives through the waste levy scheme to support the safe handling and disposal of small (household) quantities of asbestos waste.	HACA/EPA	Refer to Initiative 40	✓	✓	✓	✓
45. Promote and expand the existence and use of the Regional Illegal Dumping Program in regional and rural areas to improve appropriate disposal of asbestos waste.	EPA/LGNSW	Refer to Initiative 40	✓	✓	✓	✓
46. Promote the piloting of waste tracing technology.	EPA	Refer to Initiative 40	✓	✓	✓	✓
47. Provide public land managers with information and technical support.	EPA/WCA	Refer to Initiative 40	✓	✓	✓	✓
48. Consider and plan to accommodate future expected needs of disposed asbestos materials and reduce barriers for safe disposal.	EPA/LGNSW	Refer to Initiative 40	✓	✓	✓	✓
49. Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on illegal dumping in regional, rural and remote regions of NSW, including the aboriginal communities, to help promote the safe management of asbestos.	EPA	Under the Illegal Dumping Strategy, at least 12 illegal dumping campaigns and 4 asbestos campaigns are run annually by Waste Compliance teams. For more information on the Illegal Dumping Strategy visit epa.nsw.gov.au	✓	✓	✓	✓
50. Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on recycled waste products such as aggregate, green waste and concrete to assist industry with meeting their regulatory obligations.	EPA	Refer to Initiative 49 For more information on the Illegal Dumping Strategy visit epa.nsw.gov.au	✓	✓	✓	✓
51. Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on the transport and disposal of asbestos removalists to assist industry with meeting their regulatory obligations.	EPA	Refer to Initiative 49 For more information on the Illegal Dumping Strategy visit epa.nsw.gov.au	✓	✓	✓	✓
52. Review the <i>Guide: Management of asbestos in construction and demolition waste</i> (catalogue no. WC02772) to incorporate other forms of recycling products such as concrete, green waste and compost.	EPA/WCA/ DACC	The EPA has developed a draft protocol in consultation with WorkCover and Health and has been reviewed and approved by the HACA. The draft publication will be released shortly for public and industry consultation.	✓			

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Prevention						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
53. Provide education to landfill operators on the requirements relating to the disposal of asbestos waste.	EPA/WCA	Correspondence was sent to all operators of landfills in the levy paying area reminding them of legal obligations in relation to asbestos waste and requesting information on control systems. Feedback is currently being assessed by the EPA and will be actioned early 2014.	✓			
State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Coordination						
Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
54. Identify opportunities for improved coordination and a national approach to asbestos issues, including participation in the National Asbestos Management Review.	HACA	The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency commenced operation on 1 July 2013 as Australia's first national, independent agency dedicated to working with jurisdictions and stakeholders to create a nationally consistent approach to the eradication, handling and awareness of asbestos. The Commonwealth Government is currently considering the <i>National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2013–2018</i> . The plan aims to prevent exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos related disease in Australia. It will achieve this by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing public awareness of the dangers posed by working with or being exposed to asbestos • moving towards developing a prioritised removal program across Australia • developing nationally consistent better practice in asbestos handling and management • coordinating national research to minimise the risk of exposure to asbestos for the Australian community • playing a leadership role in a global campaign for a worldwide asbestos ban. Further jurisdictional consultation is to occur between the Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments. The activities of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency will be informed by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council. The Council is made up of a Chairperson and nine members who are selected for their experience and expertise with asbestos safety, public health, corporate governance or the representation of people with asbestos-related diseases and their families. The Chair of the HACA Working Group is one of the state representatives on the Council.	✓	✓	✓	✓
55. Monitor and review the NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan.	HACA	Annual review to be undertaken July 2014.		✓	✓	✓

State-wide Asbestos Plan implementation – Coordination

Initiative	Agencies	Action taken	2013	2014	2015	2016
56. Review and promote the Asbestos Blueprint which outlines the roles and responsibilities of local government and state agencies.	LGNSW/HACA	Promotion of Asbestos Blueprint to all NSW councils in 2014 once revised.	✓	✓		
57. Monitor and review the implementation of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	LGNSW	A survey of councils will be undertaken in November 2013 as this is one year from the release of the Model Asbestos Policy.	✓			
58. Work with other state and national jurisdictions to encourage consistency in compensation arrangements for victims of asbestos-related disease.	DDB	WorkCover is participating in the national Safe Work Australia's Strategic Issues Group for Workers Compensation. This group is to consider jurisdictional differences and identify individual areas where national consistency could be achieved in the area of dust diseases.	✓	✓	✓	✓
59. Promote collaborative information, advice and regulatory services across agencies.	Cross agency	<p>The HACA has provided improved coordination between relevant government agencies with a role in asbestos and local councils and have played an interactive role in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated response with Emergency Services during a large number of natural disaster events that occurred in 2013 causing wide spread asbestos contamination including the Coonabarabran bushfires, Kiama cyclone, Mulwala tornado and the Blue Mountains, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens bushfires. Liaised and assisted with Telstra/Comcare regarding the NBN Pits and is a representative on the Regulators Working Group Meeting to discuss and address any issues relating to asbestos and the safety of workers working on the Telstra pits. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
60. Identify, develop and progress partnerships with stakeholders, local councils and government agencies.	HACA	<p>The HACA meets twice yearly and adhoc as required.</p> <p>The HACA Working Group meets on a monthly basis and liaises regularly out-of-session to progress programs of work.</p> <p>The HACA has continued to build and progress relationships through the ADRI, the ADFA, the DAC, the Electrical Industry Asbestos Safety Working Group, the HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group and Emergency Services.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
61. Undertake coordinated monitoring and enforcement of asbestos removal and disposal work.	WCA/EPA/ Health/NSW Councils	Senior Officers of the relevant agencies liaise and exchange information on a regular basis and through regular HACA meetings to ensure continued monitoring and enforcement of asbestos removal and disposal work including annual regulatory campaigns. Refer to initiatives 32, 49–51.	✓	✓	✓	✓
62. Strengthen cross agency information sharing of regulatory monitoring, enforcement actions and statutory breaches of work health and safety, and environmental legislation.	WCA/EPA/ Health/NSW Councils	Senior Officers of the relevant agencies liaise and exchange information on a regular basis and through regular HACA meetings to ensure regulatory monitoring of work, health and safety and environmental legislation. Refer to initiatives 32, 49–51.	✓	✓	✓	✓

Definitions

ADRI	Asbestos Diseases Research Institute
ADFA	Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia
AEC	Asbestos Education Committee
DACC	Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee
DDB	Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DTRIS	Department of Trade, Regional Infrastructure and Services
Emergency Services	Including the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services and relevant Emergency Services Organisations
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
GPNSW	Government Properties NSW
HACA	Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities
Health	Ministry of Health
HWSA	Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities
LGNSW	Local Government NSW
WCA	WorkCover Authority of NSW

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