NSW GOVERNMENT

The NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan

A plan to secure the safe management of asbestos in NSW

2013

Contents

Foreword

In 2011 Safe Work Australia reported that there were 660 new cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in Australia and 551 deaths. Whilst the Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board reported 201 asbestos-related deaths in New South Wales due to occupational exposure to asbestos. There is a delay of up to 40 years, between exposure and the onset of asbestos-related diseases.

Tragically, the number of people with asbestos-related diseases is expected to increase each year until at least 2018 as a result of past unsafe practices when working with asbestos. Our challenge is to ensure current practices do not contribute to exposure and the potential for future asbestos-related diseases.

I am pleased to present the NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan as a government initiative to secure the safe management of asbestos and to reduce the unacceptably high incidence of asbestos-related diseases in New South Wales.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan is a call to action to all those in government, industry and the community to responsibly manage asbestos throughout its lifecycle, and through research to endeavour to find better mitigation and management controls and effective treatment of asbestos-related diseases.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan has been coordinated by the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities and developed in consultation with key government agencies, local council authorities, industry representatives, employee representatives, researchers and asbestos diseases groups.

Recently the Australian Government declared its commitment to establishing a national Office of Asbestos Safety which will be tasked with developing a national strategic plan as recommended by the Asbestos Management Review.

The Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities looks forward to establishing a strong relationship with the Office of Asbestos Safety. A collaborative and coordinated approach will help to both focus and maximise prevention efforts to secure effective and consistent approaches to asbestos safety in NSW and across Australia.

I am encouraged by the commitment demonstrated to date in the development of the State-wide Asbestos Plan. Those commitments now need to be speedily and resolutely transformed into action to help reduce the risk of asbestos-related diseases in our community.

Greg Pearce MLC
Minister for Finance and Services
Minister for the Illawarra

Introduction

The *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* establishes goals, targets and priority actions to rebuild the economy, return quality services, renovate infrastructure, strengthen our local environment and communities and restore accountability to government.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan contributes to the following four NSW 2021 goals:

- keep people healthy and out of hospital (goal 11)
- increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments (goal 23)
- ensure NSW is ready to deal with major emergencies and natural disasters (goal 28)
- restore trust in state and local government as a service provider (goal 30)

The NSW Ombudsman's report, *Responding to the asbestos problem: The need for significant reform in NSW*, was tabled in the NSW parliament on 17 November 2010. The report investigates how government agencies respond to significant safety issues arising out of asbestos related risks and incidents.

The NSW government response to the NSW Ombudsman's report was announced by the Minister for Finance and Services on Friday 12 August 2011. The NSW government response to the eight recommendations of the NSW Ombudsman's report included the establishment of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) who were tasked with developing the State-wide Asbestos Plan within 18 months.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan contributes to the following responses of the NSW government to the NSW Ombudsman's report:

- the NSW government supports a whole-of-government approach to the management of asbestos through a State-wide Asbestos Plan and the allocation of adequate funding for implementation of the plan (government response to Ombudsman's recommendations 3 and 4)
- the NSW government supports the need for a coordinated and consistent approach to providing asbestos awareness information to the NSW community. The State-wide Asbestos Plan will include communication strategies that will provide a public awareness and education campaign particularly targeted to local communities and local councils (government response to Ombudsman's recommendation 6)
- the consideration of asbestos risk communication requirements for residential buildings will be included in the State-wide Asbestos Plan (government response to Ombudsman's recommendation 8).

Aims

The State-wide Asbestos Plan aims to secure the safe management of asbestos to reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases in NSW.

Priorities

The State-wide Asbestos Plan targets actions around the four priority areas set out below:

1. Research

- develop a greater understanding of asbestos issues and disease management through research and innovation that benefits the community
- identify emerging asbestos-related hazards, the likely exposure levels associated with these activities and/or materials, and develop practical controls that can be applied to control those risks.

2. Risk communication

- raise public awareness and understanding through improved knowledge, skills, competencies and tools to effectively communicate asbestos exposure risks and control measures.

3. Prevention

- ensure the effective coordination of illness prevention strategies for the safe management of asbestos in all five phases of the asbestos lifecycle:

4. Coordination

- ensure effective and coordinated planning, regulation and management of asbestos issues and emergency responses through strengthened partnerships with the NSW community and collaboration between government organisations
- increase compliance with asbestos legislation through enhanced information, assistance and monitoring
- provide clarity to regulatory roles and responsibilities.

The plan provides a risk profile of asbestos for NSW and then identifies initiatives, actions and responsibilities to address each of the four priority areas. The plan also sets out how the plan is to be delivered and evaluated.

Risk profile – asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre that withstands heat, erosion and decay, and has fire and water resistant properties.

Asbestos has been used in the manufacture of building and insulation materials, brake linings in motor vehicles, and gaskets for some appliances. Australian manufacturers of building products gradually removed asbestos from their products in the 1980s.

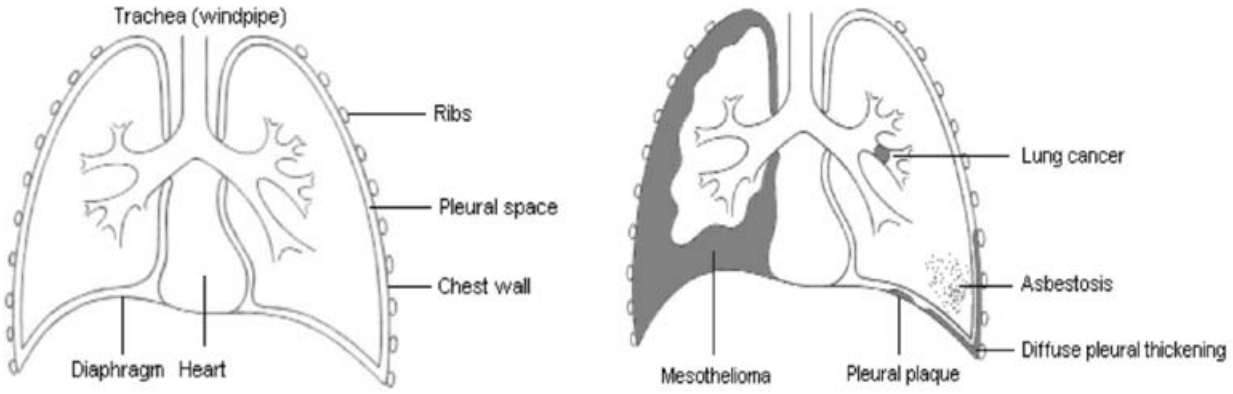
The manufacture and supply of all asbestos-containing materials was prohibited from 31 December 2003.

The import of asbestos-containing materials is controlled under the Customs(Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956. The importation of a prohibited import is an offence under the Customs Act 1901. Importers bear responsibility to ensure that imported goods comply with Commonwealth, state and territory legislative requirements.

Asbestos is a known carcinogen. Asbestos becomes a hazard when microscopic fibre fragments become airborne and are inhaled. Due to their size and shape they can remain airborne for some time, and enter even the smallest air passages in the lungs where they embed in lung tissue. The fibres are highly resistant to removal by the lungs' natural cleaning processes. Embedded asbestos fibres irritate the lung tissue around them, causing a number of diseases including mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis.

Asbestos can cause health effects if fibres are breathed into the lungs. The possible health effects of asbestos include:

- asbestosis
- lung cancer
- mesothelioma
- benign pleural disease.

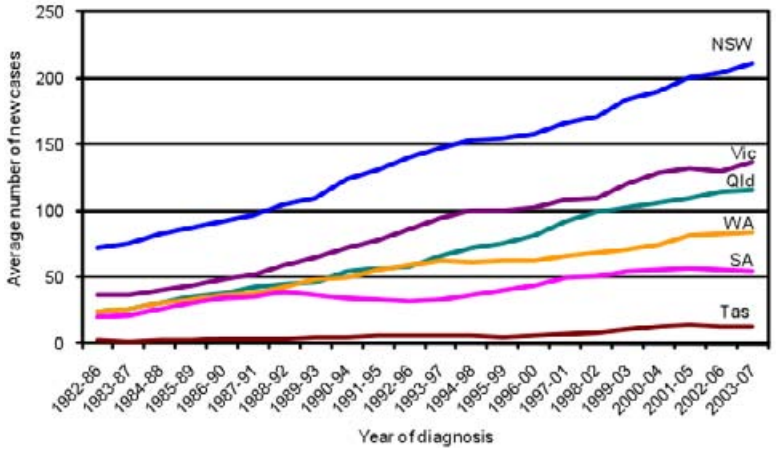


Incidence of asbestos-related disease

Data on the number of new cases of mesothelioma is collected nationally by the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare. Data is available from 1982 to 2007 for the number of new cases and from 1997 to 2007 for the number of deaths.

SafeWork Australia[1] data provided in figure 1-3 below charts the number of new cases of mesothelioma in Australia by State. The figures exclude other related diseases such as lung cancer and asbestosis. NSW has the highest number of new mesothelioma cases compared to other Australian jurisdictions.

Figure 1: New cases of mesothelioma: five year rolling average number of cases by state or territory, 1982–1986 to 2003–2007.

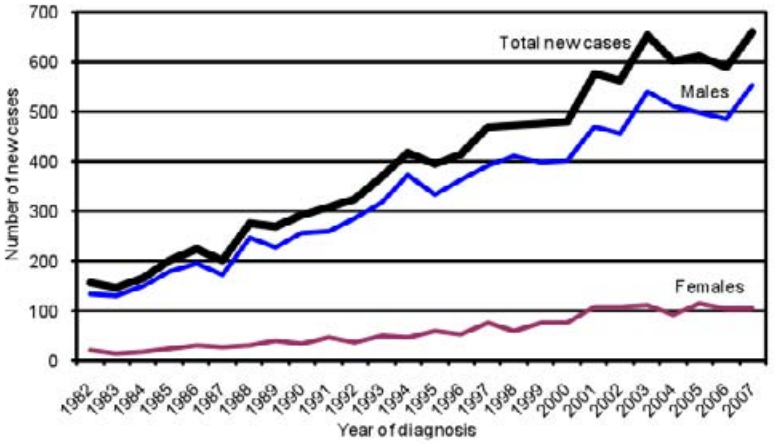


The largest numbers of mesothelioma deaths in Australia have occurred in NSW. It was the first state to mine asbestos and produced the largest amount of both chrysotile and amphibole varieties of asbestos. Incidence of asbestos-related disease in NSW has nearly doubled from 1987 to 2006.

The most populous states of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland reported the largest number of new cases; respectively averaging 211, 137 and 116 cases over the five year period 2003-2007.

These states also experienced relatively consistent and similar rates of increase in the number of cases of mesothelioma diagnosed over the period 1982-1986 to 2003-2007.

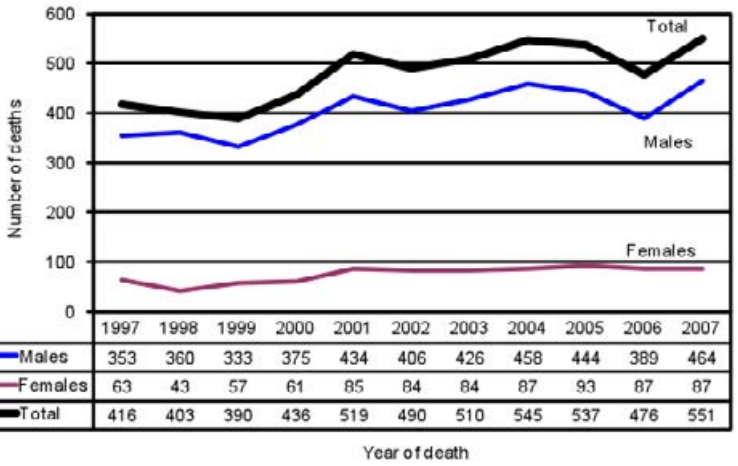
Figure 2: New cases of mesothelioma: year of diagnosis by sex, 1982 to 2007[1]



1 *Mesothelioma in Australia: Incidence 1982 to 2007, Mortality 1997 to 2007,* SafeWork Australia, 2010.

The number of new cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in each year has been rising dramatically at least since 1982, when national data first became available. The majority of new cases were men, however, the proportion of new cases that were women has been increasing.

Figure 3: Deaths due to mesothelioma: year of death by sex, 1997 to 2007



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Males	353	360	333	375	434	406	426	458	444	389	464
Females	63	43	57	61	85	84	84	87	93	87	87
Total	416	403	390	436	519	490	510	545	537	476	551

Year of death

The overall number of deaths resulting from mesothelioma increased over the period between 1997 and 2007. The number of deaths reached a maximum of 551 registered deaths in 2007. Most of these decedents were male, with an average of 84 per cent of total deaths over the 11 years.

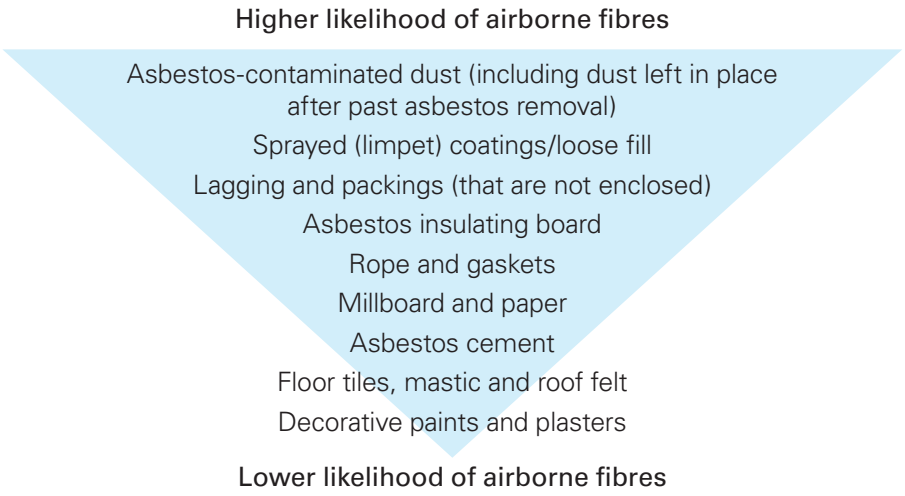
Risk assessment

The SafeWork Australia code of practice[2] advises that if "asbestos-containing material (excluding naturally occurring asbestos) is in good condition and left undisturbed, it is unlikely that airborne asbestos will be released into the air and the risk to health is extremely low. It is usually safer to leave it and review its condition over time. However, if the asbestos-containing material has deteriorated, has been disturbed, or if asbestos-contaminated dust is present, the likelihood that airborne asbestos will be released into the air is increased".

The type of material that binds asbestos fibres will influence the potential for airborne asbestos to be released into the air from different asbestos-containing materials. For example, a loosely bound sprayed (or limpet) coating is more likely to release fibres when disturbed than asbestos cement that is in good condition, and in which fibres are firmly bound.

The following list ranks different types of asbestos according to the likelihood that airborne asbestos can be released into the air if it has deteriorated or been disturbed. The potential risk to health is greater for items higher up the list if people are exposed to airborne asbestos, but any of the materials listed can produce asbestos fibres if they are disturbed.

2 How to manage and control asbestos in the workplace



Fibre cement sheeting, commonly known as 'fibro', 'asbestos sheeting' or 'AC sheeting' is the most commonly found asbestos material. Fibro cement asbestos materials may create both health and safety risks in the following circumstances:

- asbestos fibres liberated through the use of power tools such as cutting, drilling or sanding asbestos materials
- asbestos fibres liberated from poorly maintained fibro cement asbestos materials such as debris from broken, crushed or weathered materials
- the prohibited activity of high pressure water-blasting and compressed air
- asbestos fibres liberated from fire, hail, flood or high wind damage
- falls from heights from falling through brittle corrugated fibro cement asbestos roofs.

Asbestos at work

Historically, the workers most at risk from exposure to asbestos were those workers involved in asbestos mining operations, asbestos manufacturing processes and installers of asbestos materials.

Many legacy materials remain in place and the workers now most at risk are those involved in asbestos removal or remediation work, or renovation and maintenance work that disturb asbestos.

Occupations and trades that typically come into contact or work near asbestos include:

- automotive repair workers
- building construction and civil construction workers
- building maintenance workers
- carpenters
- demolition workers
- electricians
- electricity industry supply workers
- emergency services workers/volunteers
- landfill operators
- landscapers
- painters and tilers
- plumbers
- roofers
- ship builders
- waste disposal facility workers.

Asbestos in the home

Australia experienced a major housing boom after World War II and the rate of home ownership increased from around 40 per cent in 1947 to over 70 per cent in 1960 and sparked a massive phase of building and construction in Australia. Fibro or asbestos-cement was widely used in this construction era. As illustrated in figure 4 and table 1, 30 per cent of all houses in NSW were asbestos clad in 1966. Many more houses contained asbestos materials in other parts of the home. Asbestos materials still exist in many homes today. A common place where asbestos is likely to be found is illustrated in figure 5 at page 11 and can be found at asbestosawareness.com.au.

Figure 4: Fibro cement – Asbestos clad houses in NSW

Source: ABS Census for the years 1933 – 1976 available from abs.gov.au.

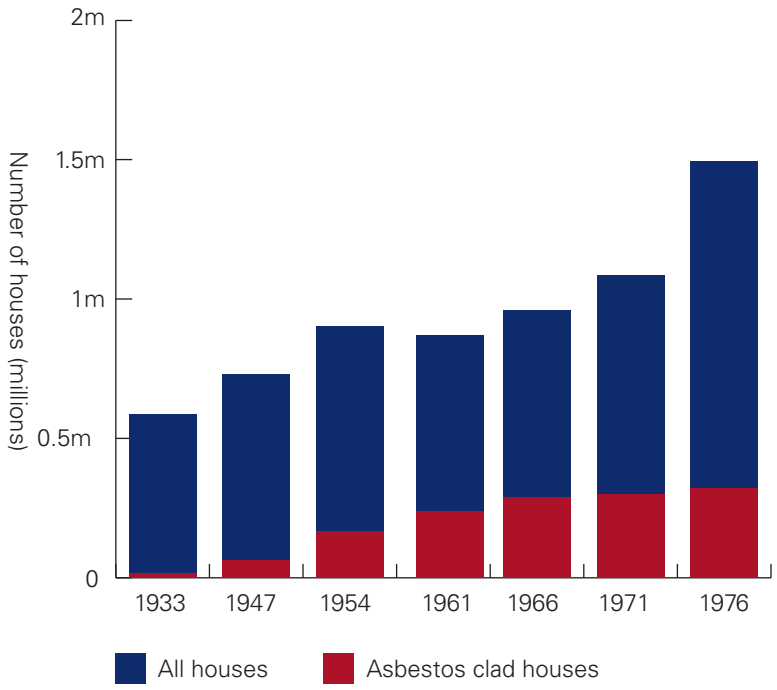


Table 1: Number of fibro cement – Asbestos clad houses in NSW

ABS census data	Asbestos clad houses	All houses	% of asbestos clad houses
1933	16,304	585,450	3%
1947	62,277	732,510	9%
1954	168,007	900,159	19%
1961	237,640	870,643	27%
1966	288,827	961,392	30%
1971	301,002	1,086,360	28%
1976	322,512	1,491,826	22%

Naturally occurring asbestos

Asbestos is found as a naturally-occurring mineral in many areas of NSW.

A number of former mine sites extracted asbestos deposits at Baryulgil, Grafton district, Barraba/Woods Reef, Orange district, Gundagai district and Broken Hill district between 1880 and 1976.

Some local councils have identified naturally occurring asbestos in their local government area.

Naturally occurring asbestos is generally found when building roads, working on civil construction projects and undertaking excavation activities.

Naturally occurring asbestos that has been found and reported in NSW has been mapped by the former NSW Industry & Investment at figure 6 on page 12.

Asbestos in the ground

While naturally occurring asbestos is more likely to be encountered in rural settings, asbestos contamination of soils from asbestos-containing materials is an issue for older sites in urban environments or where contaminated landfill and/or asbestos waste may have been disposed of in urban and rural environments.

Former asbestos manufacturing processes have resulted in significant quantities of friable asbestos waste being buried onsite at those former industrial facilities. Whilst this buried material may not give rise to airborne asbestos fibres if securely contained, inappropriate disturbance of this waste could give rise to harmful levels of asbestos fibres in the air.

Asbestos in the ground can also be found in cement pipes which were widely used for sewage systems, water services and irrigation systems. Asbestos conduit was also used for underground electrical and telephone wires and pits.

Asbestos in heritage buildings

Asbestos containing materials found in heritage buildings present additional challenges in regard to the removal and replacement of these materials. Asbestos removal work must be done in accordance with planning and heritage legislative requirements and should mitigate heritage impacts by:

1. Identifying heritage values and ensuring their protection during removal of asbestos.
2. Ensuring the act of removal of asbestos does not materially affect cultural heritage.
3. Ensuring replacement material does not affect heritage values.

Figure 5: Typical areas to find asbestos in a home

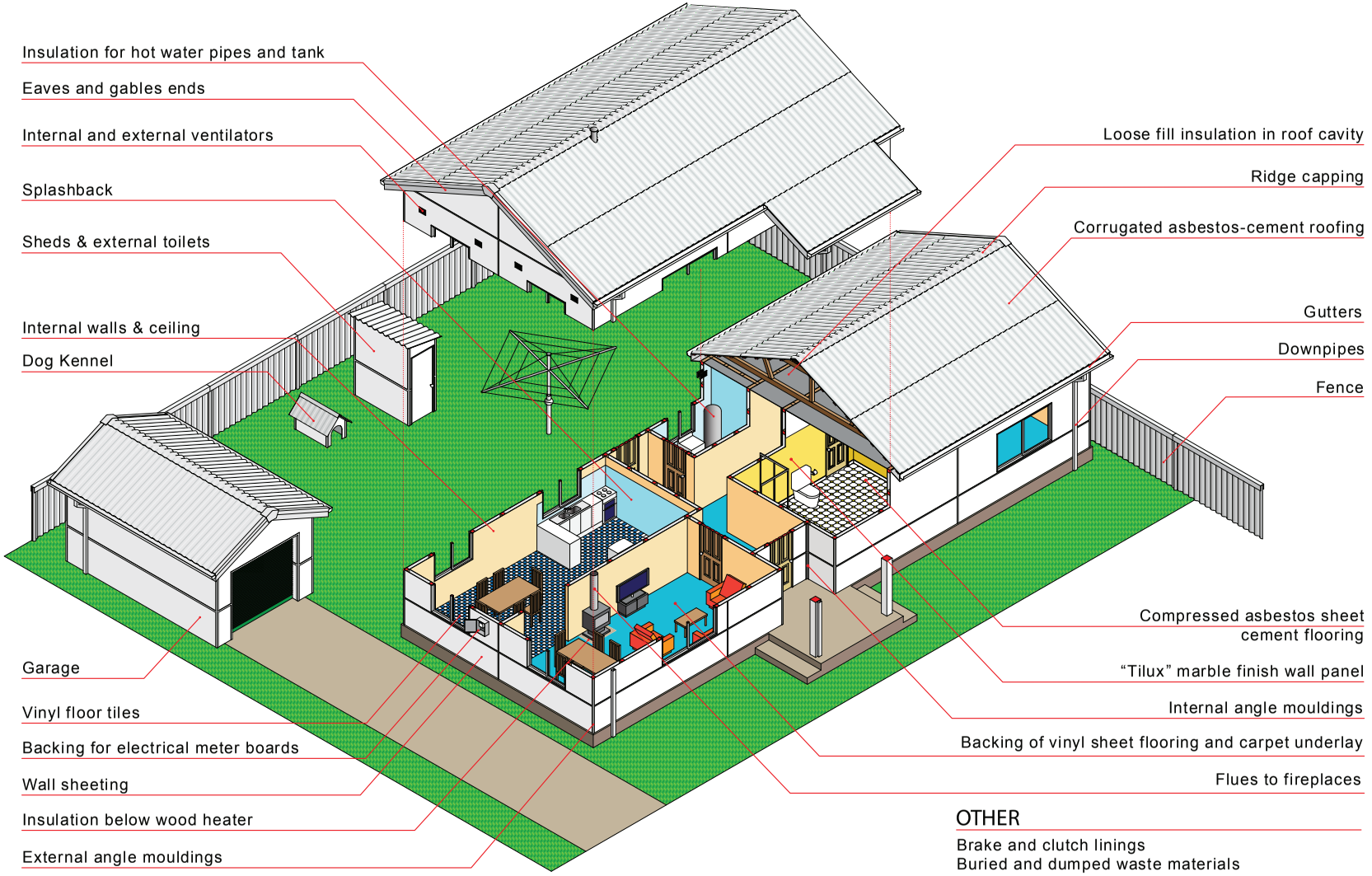
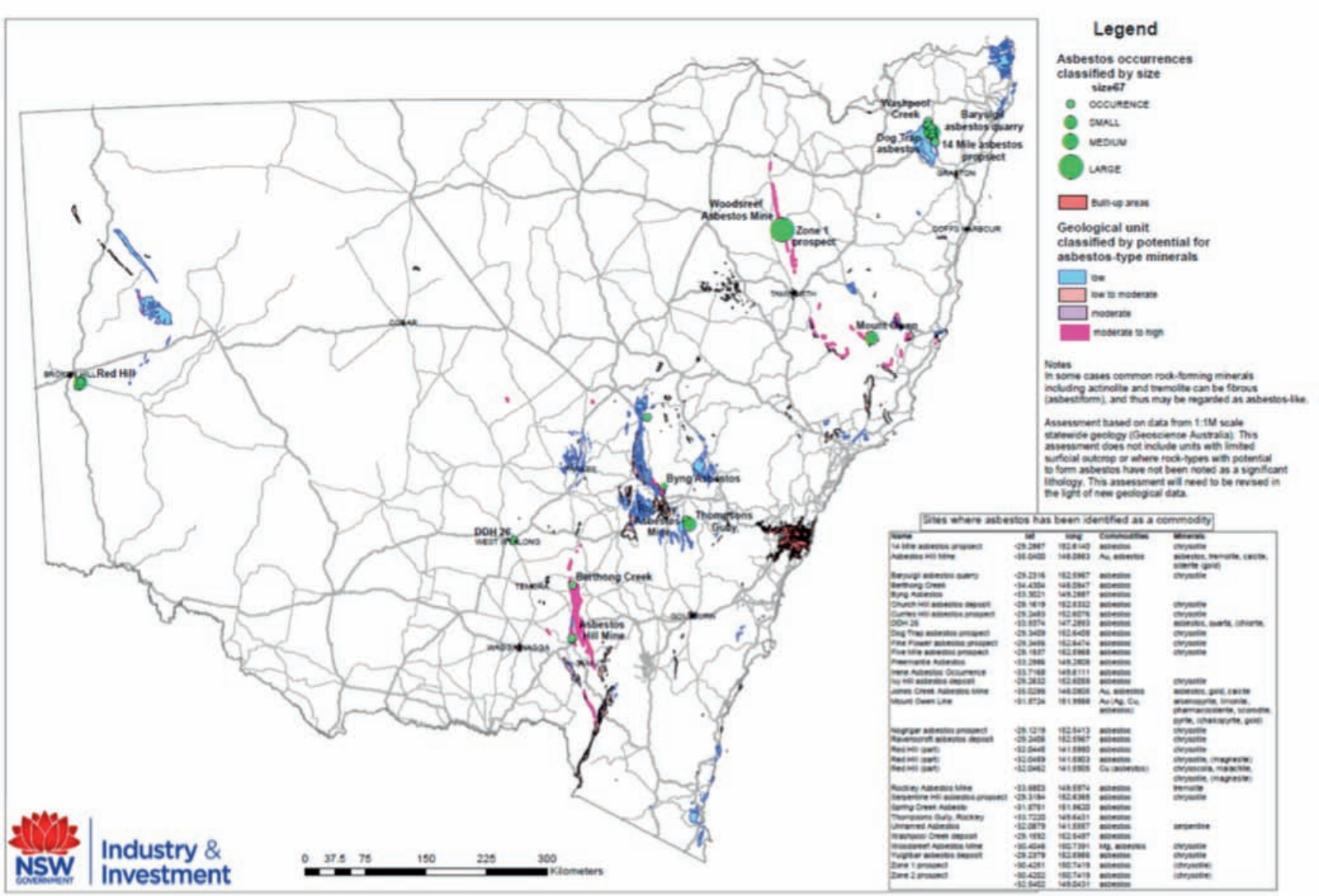


Figure 6: Mapping of naturally occurring asbestos found in NSW provided by the former NSW Industry & Investment



Delivering the plan

The HACA will coordinate and oversee the implementation of the State-wide Asbestos Plan and be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the plan through annual reporting of progress against priorities and actions.

The HACA is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of WorkCover and is comprised of senior representatives from the following organisations:

- Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
- Division of Local Government
- Environment Protection Authority
- Local Government NSW
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry for Police and Emergency Services
- Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board.

The HACA reports to the Minister for Finance and Services. Each party with responsibilities under the plan will report annually to the HACA on progress of actions. The HACA will provide an annual progress report on the State-wide Asbestos Plan to the Minister for Finance and Services in December each year.

The State-wide Asbestos Plan will be reviewed annually by the HACA to ensure priorities and actions remain relevant. The State-wide Asbestos Plan and progress reports will be made available to the community in December each year through members' websites, the HACA website and asbestosawareness.com.au

Government organisations and local councils are responsible for the regulation of asbestos under work health and safety, public health, environment protection, planning and emergency response legislation.

The four priority areas in the plan will provide a more effective and coordinated approach between government agencies and local councils and will provide greater awareness in the local community.

Government agencies, local councils, and the community must all take an active role in the safe management of asbestos to assist in reducing the incidence of asbestos-related disease.

Roles and responsibilities of government agencies and local councils

Asbestos in the ground	Non-declared public/residential asbestos contaminated land	Local Council
	Orphaned waste	Local Council/ Environment Protection Authority
	Asbestos remediation work	WorkCover NSW
	Non-declared workplace contaminated land	WorkCover NSW
	Declared asbestos contaminated land	Environment Protection Authority
	Mineral extraction and abandoned mines	Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
Supply	Illegal import/export	WorkCover through Australian Customs & Border Protection Service
	Illegal supply	WorkCover NSW
In-situ management buildings and vehicles	Licensed asbestos assessors	WorkCover NSW
	At workplaces	WorkCover NSW
	At domestic premises and non-workplaces	Local Council
Removal	All Licensed removal work and asbestos assessors	WorkCover NSW
	At a workplace not requiring a licensed removal contractor	WorkCover NSW
	At domestic premises by a person concerned in business or undertaking	WorkCover NSW
	At domestic premises requiring a licensed removal contractor	WorkCover NSW
	At domestic premises – all other cases	Local Council
Emergency response	Response to emergency incidents	Emergency Services Organisation (ESO)
	Major recovery operations	Emergency Recovery Committee
	Routine recovery planning	Local Council
	Routine recovery operations	Local Council/ESO
Transport and disposal	Transport by vehicle	Environment Protection Authority
	Licensed waste storage or recycling facilities	Environment Protection Authority
	Landfill facilities	Environment Protection Authority
	Waste transport – interstate	Environment Protection Authority
	Waste export	Environment Protection Authority through Australian Customs & Border Protection Service
	Illegal disposal	Environment Protection Authority/Local Council
	Temporary on-site waste storage – workplaces	WorkCover NSW
	Laundering facilities	WorkCover NSW

About the State-wide Asbestos Plan

AIM

The State-wide Asbestos Plan aims to secure the safe management of asbestos to reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases in NSW.

Four priority areas

Research

Outcome 1.1

Develop a greater understanding of asbestos issues and disease management through research and innovation that benefits the community.

Outcome 1.2

Identify emerging asbestos-related hazards, the likely exposure levels associated with these activities and/or materials, and develop practical controls that can be applied to control those risks.

Risk communication

Outcome 2

Raise public awareness and understanding through improved knowledge, skills, competencies and tools to effectively communicate asbestos exposure risks and control measures.

Prevention

Outcome 3

Ensure the effective coordination of illness prevention strategies for the safe management of asbestos in all five phases of the asbestos lifecycle:

- asbestos in the ground and site contamination
- manufacture and supply
- management and removal of in-situ asbestos at work and at home
- management of asbestos debris during an emergency response
- transport and disposal.

Coordination

Outcome 4.1

Ensure effective and coordinated planning, regulation and management of asbestos issues and emergency responses through strengthened partnerships with the NSW community and collaboration between government organisations.

Outcome 4.2

Increase compliance with asbestos legislation through enhanced information, assistance and monitoring.

Outcome 4.3

Provide clarity to regulatory roles and responsibilities.

Priority area 1: Research – improved understanding of asbestos issues

Outcomes

Develop a greater understanding of asbestos issues and disease management through research and innovation that benefits the community.

Identify emerging asbestos-related hazards, the likely exposure levels associated with these activities and/or materials, and develop practical controls that can be applied to control these risks.

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
Improved epidemiological analysis and risk profiles for mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases.	1.	Promote epidemiological/research studies and report on trends and risk profiles using data from available sources including Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board (DDB), the Australian Mesothelioma Registry and the Dust Diseases Tribunal. Seek funding from sources including NHMRC to support research.	HACA	Ongoing
	2.	Assess the cost/benefit of current screening practices and develop evidence based guidelines for screening and health surveillance monitoring.	DDB/Health/WCA	Two years
Improved knowledge of the management and detection of asbestos-related disease.	3.	Develop evidence-based guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of malignant mesothelioma.	ADRI	One year
	4.	Maintain a biobank to provide a research resource for the development of early diagnostic markers and new treatment options for mesothelioma.	ADRI	Ongoing
	5.	Conduct research to develop: • best practice protocols for asbestos-related disease management • screening technologies for disease detection.	ADRI	Ongoing
Improved knowledge of emerging asbestos hazard issues, exposure levels and practical risk controls.	6.	Review literature, incidents and issues to establish a watch list of emerging asbestos hazard issues to monitor, manage and promote information and learnings.	HACA	Ongoing

Promote and develop research capabilities in NSW.	7.	Review research priorities into asbestos-related issues:
		• exposure assessment and reducing exposure pathways
		  ○ typical exposure levels for different asbestos activities
		  ○ the size and extent of asbestos in the built environment
		  ○ the size and extent of naturally occurring asbestos
		  ○ efficient disposal methodologies as part of a long term disposal plan
		  ○ practical control measures
		• health outcomes.
			HACA	Two years

	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 Grants Scheme/ Health /WCA/EPA Environmental Trust	Two years

Priority area 2: Risk communication – increased awareness and knowledge

Outcomes

Raise public awareness and understanding through improved knowledge, skills, competencies and tools to effectively communicate asbestos exposure risks and control measures.

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
Provide a public awareness campaign targeted to local communities.	9.	Develop an education campaign with a focus on 'home renovators' by: • alerting those people to the dangers of asbestos • alerting those people as to what products may contain asbestos and where those products may be found in existing households or other environments • 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	Ongoing
	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.	WCA	One year
	11.	Review all current guidance material to ensure accuracy, consistency and completeness.	HACA	One year
	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.	Cross agency HACA	Two years
	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	Two years
Promote public awareness of asbestos issues through key events.	14.	Undertake a coordinated government awareness raising campaign during National Asbestos Awareness Week held annually in November.	HACA/ADFA/AEC	Annually in November
Raise the knowledge and awareness of asbestos responsibilities and issues for local councils and private certifiers.	15.	Develop and issue a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	LG NSW in consultation with NSW Councils and HACA/DLG	August 2012
	16.	Assisting councils to adopt and implement the Model Asbestos Policy.	LG NSW/HACA	One year
	17.	Develop specific educative tools for training and workshops for local councils.	WCA /EPA LG NSW/ DLG	One year

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
	18.	Develop a fact sheet for persons undertaking an exempt development that has identified asbestos is present.	DPI	One year
	19.	Promote the local council asbestos fact sheet for inclusion in local council websites.	HACA	One year
	20.	Coordinate and disseminate information to local government through contact with individual councils and the LGSA to assist local government to ensure consistent information and advice is available to the public.	LG NSW/HACA	Ongoing
	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	Two years
	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	Two years

Priority area 3: Prevention – protection of workers, the community and the environment

Outcomes

Ensure the effective coordination of illness prevention strategies for the safe management of asbestos in all five phases of the asbestos lifecycle:

- asbestos in the ground and site contamination.
- manufacture and supply.
- management and removal of in-situ asbestos at work and at home.
- management of asbestos debris during an emergency response.
- transport and disposal.

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
Asbestos in the ground and site contamination.	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	One year
	24.	Develop a practical guide for safe management of soil contaminated with asbestos-containing materials.	WCA/EPA	One year
	25.	Provide improved mapping of naturally occurring asbestos and contaminated land sites in NSW to assist councils with land use planning.	DTRIS/EPA/WCA	One year
	26.	Manage the stabilisation and risk mitigation works for the Woods Reef Mine site.	DTRIS	Ongoing
Manufacture and supply.	27.	Alert importers and suppliers to the risks and control measures to prevent the illegal import of asbestos goods.	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service	Ongoing
	28.	Identify high risk imported goods that could contain asbestos including the purchase of asbestos products online.		One year
Management and removal of in-situ asbestos at work.	29.	Promote implementation of workplace asbestos *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* and codes of practice which commenced from 1 January 2012.	WCA	Ongoing
	30.	Develop and maintain a comprehensive demolition and asbestos strategy to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of workers is protected.	WCA	Ongoing
	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	Two years
	32.	Undertake an annual compliance and enforcement monitoring and targeted audit program for licensed asbestos removalists and asbestos assessors with a focus on training, health monitoring, safety management systems and safe disposal (checking of landfill receipts).	WCA	Annually

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
	33.	Ensure ongoing inclusion of information on asbestos safety in training for apprentices in the building, construction, automotive and electricity supply trades.	WCA	Ongoing
	34.	Develop and foster industry networks such as the Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee to promote the safety management of asbestos.	WCA	Ongoing
	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	Two years
	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	Ongoing
	37.	Develop guidance material to assist asbestos assessors for undertaking the assessment of friable asbestos removal work.	WCA	One year
	38.	Publish a listing of licensed asbestos removalists, demolition contractors and asbestos assessors on the WorkCover website.	WCA	One year
Management and removal of in-situ asbestos at home.	39.	Increase the awareness of the homeowners when purchasing or renovating/ maintaining a property that may contain asbestos.	AEC	One year
	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	Two years
Management of asbestos debris during an emergency response.	41.	Develop guidance material for the laundering of asbestos contaminated clothing and equipment for emergency personnel.	WCA/Emergency services	One year
	42.	Promote bi-annual exercises to test current emergency guidelines to ensure appropriate response levels for asbestos incidents.	Emergency services	Bi-annually
	43.	Promote asbestos-related emergency response plans through relevant government and council websites.	HACA	One year
Transport and disposal.	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	Two years
	45.	Promote and expand the existence and use of the Regional Illegal Program in regional and rural areas to improve appropriate disposal of asbestos waste.	EPA/LG NSW	Two years
	46.	Promote the piloting of waste tracing technology.	EPA	Two years
	47.	Provide public land managers with information and technical support.	EPA/WCA	Ongoing
	48.	Consider and plan to accommodate future expected needs of disposed asbestos materials and reduce barriers for safe disposal.	EPA/LG NSW	Two years

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
	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	Annually
	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	Annually
	51.	Undertake an annual regulatory campaign focussing on the transport and disposal of asbestos removalists to assist industry with meeting their regulatory obligations.	EPA	Annually
	52.	Review the *Guide: Management of asbestos in construction and demolition waste* (catalogue no. WC02772) to incorporate other forms of recycling products such as concrete, green waste and compost.	WCA/EPA	One year
	53.	Provide education to landfill operators on the requirements relating to the disposal of asbestos waste	EPA	One year

Priority area 4: Coordination – responsive planning, regulation and services

Outcomes

Ensure effective and coordinated planning, regulation and management of asbestos issues and emergency responses through strengthened partnerships with the NSW community and collaboration between government organisations.

Increase compliance with asbestos legislation through enhanced monitoring, information and assistance.

Provide clarity to regulatory roles and responsibilities.

Targeted areas	Initiatives		Lead	Timeframe
Cross agency strategic planning approach.	54.	Identify opportunities for improved coordination and a national approach to asbestos issues, including participation in the National Asbestos Management Review.	HACA	Ongoing
	55.	Monitor and review the NSW State-wide Asbestos Plan.	HACA	Annually
	56.	Review and promote the asbestos blueprint which outlines the roles and responsibilities of local government and state agencies.	HACA	One year
	57.	Monitor and review the implementation of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.	LG NSW	One year
	58.	Work with other state and national jurisdictions to encourage consistency in compensation arrangements for victims of asbestos-related disease.	DDB	Ongoing
Cross agency advice, assistance and partnerships.	59.	Promote collaborative information, advice and regulatory services across agencies (also refer to research initiative 6).	Cross agency	Ongoing
	60.	Identify, develop and progress partnerships with stakeholders, local councils and government agencies.	HACA	Ongoing
Coordinated cross agency regulatory monitoring and enforcement programs.	61.	Undertake coordinated monitoring and enforcement of asbestos removal and disposal work.	WCA/ EPA/Health/ Local councils	Ongoing
	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/ Local councils	Ongoing

Acronyms/abbreviations

ADFA	Asbestos Diseases Foundation of Australia
ADRI	Asbestos Diseases Research Institute
AEC	Asbestos Education Committee
DACC	Demolition and Asbestos Consultative Committee
DDB	Workers' Compensation Dust Diseases Board
DLG	Division of Local Government
DPI	Department of Planning and Infrastructure
DTIRIS	Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
HACA	Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities
HWSA	Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities
LG NSW	Local Government NSW
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
WCA	WorkCover NSW

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