

Presented by:



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

South Australian Asbestos Plan

2024-2030

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The *South Australian Asbestos Plan 2024-2030* sets out the strategic actions the South Australian Government will undertake to support the implementation of the *Asbestos National Strategic Plan Phase Three 2024-30* (ANSP 2024-30) developed by the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA).

The ANSP 2024-30 builds on previous national plans and aims to address the ongoing risks and harmful legacy of asbestos in homes, workplaces and the environment through coordinated and sustained efforts across all Australian jurisdictions.

Roles and responsibilities

While certain departments have lead roles in administering legislation such as SafeWork SA in enforcing work health and safety laws, and the Environment Protection Authority in regulating environmental hazards and investigating breaches of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (SA) and the *Environment Protection Act Regulations 2023* (SA), this does not diminish or replace the legal obligations of all South Australian government departments and agencies under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* (SA) and the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012* (SA).

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
Consumer and Business Services SA	• Provision of general consumer advice in disputes between consumers and businesses under Australian Consumer Law. • Enforcement of the product safety provisions of Australian Consumer Law (SA) including matters related to asbestos in consumer goods.
Department for Education	• Management of asbestos-containing materials in government schools, preschools and corporate offices. • Ensures compliance with legislative requirements through annual inspections, maintenance of an asbestos register and implementation of the asbestos management procedure which guides safe handling, risk mitigation and removal of asbestos in education facilities.
Department for Energy and Mining SA	• Provision and maintenance of geoscience and mineral information for data for South Australia, including information on naturally occurring asbestos. • Ensures that assessment and approval processes under the <i>Mining Act 1971</i> comply with relevant asbestos legislative provisions. • Oversight of the management of properties containing asbestos, particularly those

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
	associated with mining and exploration activities.
Department for Environment and Water	• Management of South Australia's national parks, botanic gardens and heritage places, ensuring these public assets are maintained safely and sustainably. • Oversight of the identification and management of asbestos-containing materials within these sites. • Ensures that conservation and heritage management practices incorporate asbestos risk assessments.
Department for Health and Wellbeing SA	• Administration of the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i> which provides the legislative framework for protecting public health, including managing risks associated with environmental hazards such as asbestos. • Oversight of public health infrastructure including government-owned buildings, ensuring that asbestos-containing materials are identified, managed and removed in accordance with public health and safety standards. • Works in collaboration with other departments and agencies to support asbestos-related health risk assessments and responses, particularly in cases of exposure or contamination affecting public health.
Department for Infrastructure and Transport	• Provision of advice to workplaces about how to identify and manage risks related to asbestos, particularly through its Advisory Team. • Together with government departments and agencies, and industry, management of the delivery of social infrastructure projects including building ad construction. • Maintenance of a prequalification register for: ○ demolition and asbestos removal contractors, categorised by complexity and risk ○ professional and technical services for asbestos management, including

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
	asbestos surveys, re-inspections, air monitoring and compliance services. • Management of the Asbestos Advisory Team, which can assist agencies with procuring and managing asbestos site inspections. • Provision of expert advice on asbestos hazard management and legislative compliance for government owned assets and government projects. • Administration of the Treasury Asbestos Removal Fund, supporting the removal of asbestos from government buildings.
Environment Protection Authority	• Administration of key environmental legislation including the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i> and the <i>Environment Protection Regulations 2023</i> which govern the safe handling, transport and disposal of hazardous materials such as asbestos. • Licensing of landfills and transfer stations that are authorised to accept asbestos waste, ensuring proper containment and disposal practices to prevent environmental contamination. • Regulation and investigation of the illegal dumping of asbestos and other hazardous materials, enforcing penalties and remediation requirements where necessary. • Responding to incidents of environmental contamination involving asbestos, including site assessments and coordination with other departments and agencies for remediation. • Operating under a memorandum of understanding with SafeWork SA to facilitate data sharing and collaborative enforcement to improve disposal practices regarding asbestos and workplace safety.
Forestry SA	• Acts as a public land manager, responsible for protecting the environment across its managed estates, including addressing issues such as illegal dumping of waste materials, which may include asbestos. • Management of government-owned buildings within its portfolio, some of which may contain minor amounts of asbestos. Despite

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
	the limited presence, Forestry SA maintains an asbestos register at each relevant site. Ensures that any asbestos-related risks are appropriately managed, particularly during maintenance or refurbishment activities.
Green Industries SA	- Leads efforts to build South Australia's capability and resilience in disaster waste management, including planning, coordination and responsible activities under the State Emergency Management Plan. - Plays a key role in the clean-up and safe removal of hazardous materials including asbestos following disaster events such as bushfires and floods. - Development and implementation of Disaster Waste Management Guidelines, which support local councils and agencies in managing debris and waste to protect human health and the environment. - Promotion of resource recovery and recycling during disaster recovery to reduce landfill use and support economic regeneration.
Local councils	- Council Environmental Health Officers are appointed as authorised officers under the <i>South Australian Public Health Act 2011</i>, enabling them to investigate and respond to public health risks, including those related to asbestos. - Responsible for local waste management services, which includes addressing illegal dumping of asbestos-containing materials on council-managed land. - Responding to public health complaints involving asbestos, such as unsafe removal practices by residents or contractors and coordinate with other agencies such as SafeWork SA or the Environment Protection Authority when necessary. - Plays a key role in community education and enforcement, helping residents and other members of the community understand safe asbestos handling and disposal practices.

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
Mining and Quarrying Occupational Health and Safety Committee (MAQOHSC)	Engages with small to medium employers in the mining and quarrying and other industries at risk from dust related diseases to support improvements in prevention and management practices.
SA Housing Trust	- Management of a large portfolio of government-owned residential properties, including maintenance responsibilities that involve the identification, management and removal of asbestos-containing materials in accordance with the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012</i> and internal maintenance policies. - Maintenance of an asbestos register for relevant properties and ensures that contractors and staff are trained in asbestos safety procedures, including testing and removal protocols. - Responding to concerns by tenants and maintenance requests through its Maintenance Contact Centre which coordinates asbestos-related work orders and updates property records accordingly.
SA Police	Management of buildings containing asbestos within its property portfolio including police stations and operational facilities.
SA Water	- Operating as a licenced asbestos company authorised to remove Class B (non-friable) asbestos, primarily found in its legacy network infrastructure, such as cement water pipes. - Older SA Water properties contain in-situ asbestos-containing materials which are managed through a prioritised, risk-based removal program. - Staff working with asbestos materials receive specialised training to ensure safety and compliance. - Responsible for the transport, storage and disposal of asbestos waste generated during maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.
SafeWork SA	Administration of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2012</i> and the <i>Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012</i> which includes governing

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
	the safe management, control and removal of asbestos in workplaces. • Issuing of licenses for asbestos removalists and assessors. • Regulation of asbestos removal by a person conducting a business or undertaking, including removal work at domestic premises, ensuring compliance with safety standards. • Maintenance of the asbestos.sa.gov.au website which provides comprehensive public information on asbestos identification, management, removal and disposal. • Participation in key collaborative initiatives: ○ SA Dust Diseases Alliance, which brings together government agencies to coordinate asbestos safety efforts across the state ○ HWSA Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group, which manages national responses to incidents involving asbestos in imported goods ○ Works closely with the Environment Protection Authority under an memorandum of understanding to share data and coordinate enforcement actions related to asbestos disposal and illegal dumping.
South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission	• Leads and coordinates emergency management planning across South Australia, ensuring a whole-of-government approach to disaster preparedness, response and recovery. • Represents South Australia in national emergency management and disaster resilience policy development. • Supports the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which guides efforts to reduce risks, including those associated with legacy asbestos, in emergency and disaster contexts.

Department/Agency	Area of Responsibility
ReturntoWorkSA	- Administration of the <i>Return to Work Act 2014</i> (SA). - Oversees the Return to Work Insurance Scheme in SA that protects South Australian businesses and their workers from the costs of a work injury.

Priorities

The *South Australian Asbestos Plan 2024-2030* is aligned with the National Priorities in the ANSP 2024-30:

National Priority 1 – Accurate identification and consistent assessment

A robust and standardised process for identifying the presence, location and condition of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) enables effective actions to be taken to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres including the development of prioritised asbestos removal programs.

National Priority 2 – Risk control and prioritised removal

Asbestos materials have reached end of product life and are degrading, increasing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. Without significant intervention, Australia will still have around one million tonnes of in situ ACMS in the built environment by 2060.

National Priority 3 – Safe and effective transport and disposal

Environment protection agencies and local authorities across Australia continue to face the challenge of illegal disposal of asbestos which harms both human health and the environment and results in significant clean-up costs to the community. The barriers to the legal disposal of asbestos are cost, convenience and awareness.

National Priority 4 – Early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases so appropriate care and treatments can be provided

Early detection of asbestos-related diseases is essential to help prevent disease progression and increased survival rates.

National Priority 5 – Easy navigation of care and support systems

The diagnosis of an asbestos-related disease can be overwhelming for those affected, not only physically but also emotionally and financially. The not-for-profit asbestos-related disease support groups around Australia play a vital role in advising and assisting asbestos-related disease sufferers, their families, friends and carers to make living with the disease easier.

National Priority 6 – Improved diagnostic, therapeutic and other treatment methods

Improving diagnostics, therapeutics and other treatment methods will help people with an asbestos-related disease live longer, healthier lives

National Priority 7 – Capacity building in South-East Asia

Neighbouring countries in South-East Asia continue to have large levels of chrysotile asbestos consumption, often coupled with very poor work health and safety standards. Assisting these countries developing capability to detect asbestos-related diseases and

improve practices to prevent asbestos exposure builds the foundation for progressing asbestos bans and aligns with Australia's International Development Program for the Indo-Pacific.

National Priority 8 – Promoting the Australian Government's position on asbestos bans

Australia's past use of asbestos has left a devastating legacy. It is important that we use our experience in a positive way to support campaigns to ban the production and trade of asbestos and ACMs to prevent further death and disease.

National Priority 9 – Preventing and responding effectively to illegal importation of products containing asbestos

Until a worldwide ban is achieved on the production and trade of asbestos and ACMs, there is a risk of asbestos products entering Australia unlawfully. The Australian Border Force is responsible for enforcing the import prohibition at the border and works together with Work Health and Safety (WHS) regulators and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to trace imports that have entered Australia and commence remediation.

National priorities 1, 2 and 3 are aimed at eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

National targets identified in the ANSP 2024-30 aimed at eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia are the following:

- awareness levels increase each year compared to the baseline year of 2024
- campaign exceeds government performance benchmarks
- number of workers completing asbestos-related training increases each year
- the number of people licensed and/or accredited to carry out asbestos activities increases each year
- asbestos stocks decline more than the 2012 estimate of 10% per decade in line with the additional rates (extra 0.6%-1% per annum) included in the socio-economic evaluation.

National priorities 4, 5 and 6 are aimed at supporting workers and others who are affected by asbestos-related diseases.

National targets identified in the ANSP 2024-30 aimed at supporting workers and others who are affected by asbestos-related disease are the following:

- increase in funding for mesothelioma and lung cancer research and programs as evidenced by an increase in funding from \$30.9 million reported by Cancer Australia in 2020
- increase in funding for advocacy and support groups as evidenced by an increase in funding from amounts reported in the ASSEA's 2022-2023 financial statements.

National priorities 7, 8 and 9 are aimed at international leadership.

National targets identified in the ANSP 2024-30 aimed at international leadership are the following:

- 50% decline in the asbestos consumption in Southeast Asia by 2030 from baseline of 175,000 tonnes in 2002
- all importation incidents detected are subject to regulatory action, with the aim of preventing repeat importations.

Measurement and Reporting

Each agency is responsible for preparing and submitting an annual progress report detailing their strategic actions under the *South Australian Asbestos Plan 2024-2030*. Reports must be submitted to SafeWork SA of the Attorney-General's Department, via the SafeWork SA National Meetings Secretariat via email at:

AGDSWSANationalMeetingsSecretariat@sa.gov.au.

SafeWork SA's Secretariat is responsible for collating and tabling these agency reports to the Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group for review and approval.

Once endorsed, one consolidated progress report will be submitted to the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) as part of South Australia's contribution to the ANSP 2024-30.

Priorities for South Australia

The priorities for South Australia, mapped against the national targets outlined in the ANSP 2024-30 are detailed in below.

Additional initiatives and actions may be introduced over the life of the plan, subject to approval by the Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group members. This ensures the plan remains responsive to emerging issues and evolving national priorities.

Implementation

The Asbestos Working Group will work collaboratively to implement the actions identified in the *South Australian Asbestos Plan 2024-2030*, as identified by the Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group, on behalf of the South Australian Government.

National Priority 1 – Accurate identification and consistent assessment

A robust and standardised process for identifying the presence, location and condition of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) enables effective actions to be taken to prevent exposure to airborne asbestos fibres including the development of prioritised asbestos removal programs.

(Actions taken against strategic action 1.1 will overlap with actions taken against strategic action 2.1.)

National asbestos awareness campaigns

Deliver national asbestos awareness campaigns targeting:

- do it yourself (DIY) and trades
- indigenous Australians
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- remote and regional communities
- buyers and sellers of residential property
- renters and landlords of residential property
- school communities.

South Australian actions

- 1.1 SafeWork SA will collaborate with the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) to support and implement national asbestos awareness campaign.
- 1.2 SafeWork SA will contribute to the development and promotion of asbestos education strategies, with a focus on younger Australians who may lack awareness due to age.
- 1.3 SafeWork SA will plan and execute activities to support National Asbestos Awareness Week each November.
- 1.4 Consumer and Business Services will share relevant asbestos-related information with industry licence holders and other key audiences where appropriate.
- 1.5 The Asbestos Working Group will draft and send formal request to ASSEA to undertake targeted communication and education initiatives aimed at young people.
- 1.6 The Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain and update asbestos-related information, guidelines and resources on the Department for Infrastructure and Transport's Asbestos Management website.
- 1.7 The Local Government Association will promote national asbestos awareness campaigns within local communities, particularly in regional and remote areas, as required.

Improving asbestos-related training

Improve asbestos-related training for:

- workers including apprentices, waste and transport workers
- asbestos surveyors
- building inspectors and certifiers
- real estate agents and property managers.

South Australian actions

- 1.8 Department for Infrastructure and Transport has developed training modules on legislative compliance and government process requirements, which will be available on the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Asbestos Management website. South Australian government departments to make staff and contractors aware of their availability once published.

Develop national guidance for conducting asbestos surveys including for naturally occurring asbestos

South Australian actions

- 1.9 SafeWork SA will support development of national guidance for asbestos surveys, including naturally occurring asbestos, to improve consistent and accurate identification.
- 1.10 SafeWork SA will provide technical expertise and feedback to ASSEA regarding guidance that is disseminated nationally, regarding the practical challenges of implementation.
- 1.11 Department for Infrastructure and Transport has developed guidance documents for Department for Infrastructure and Transport's prequalified asbestos management consultancies. Minimum requirements required by consultants include:
 - mandatory updates of relevant asbestos registers
 - uploading of supporting documents to the centralised database 'South Australian Asbestos Management Information System (SAMIS)
 - distributing information to all required stakeholders.

Support expansion of accreditation systems for asbestos professionals

South Australian actions

- 1.12 SafeWork SA will support ASSEA in expanding accreditation systems for asbestos professionals by contributing expertise, feedback and regulatory insight as needed.
- 1.13 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain the prequalification system for asbestos management and removal service providers on South Australian Government sites.

Implement asbestos awareness training for certain workers

South Australian actions

- 1.14 SafeWork SA will support the development of a list of common trades where exposure to asbestos may present a significant risk.
- 1.15 Department for Infrastructure and Transport has developed training modules on legislative compliance and government process requirements, which will be available on the Department for Infrastructure and Transport Asbestos Management website. South Australian government departments to make staff and contractors aware of their availability once published.

Implement identification and disclosure of asbestos in residential properties at point of sale and lease, and for planning and development approvals

South Australian actions

- 1.16 All government agencies will provide asbestos registers to property buyers during the sale of any government-owned properties, ensuring transparency and informed decision making.

Incentives for the identification of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) in residential properties

South Australian actions

- 1.17 The Department of Treasury and Finance will investigate implementing financial support mechanisms, such as a no-interest loan scheme, for low and medium income households to proactively identify and remove asbestos-containing materials from residential properties.
- 1.18 The Environment Protection Authority will work with the Department of Treasury and Finance to consider the issue of lawful transport and disposal requirements as part of this removal from residential properties.

Continue to respond to and investigate asbestos related complaints and incidences

South Australian actions

- 1.19 SafeWork SA will continue to respond to and investigate asbestos related complaints and incidents throughout the duration of the ANSP 2024-30.
- 1.20 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain and deliver asbestos-related support services on a cost for service model to South Australian Government departments and agencies including:
 - asbestos advisory service
 - asbestos exposure incident investigations
 - asbestos incident management.
- 1.21 The Environment Protection Authority will work with SafeWork SA and other government agencies to investigate opportunities for improved identification systems for demolitions involving asbestos. This will include improved tracking to ensure lawful disposal, recording of quantities and records kept at the disposal site which can be made available for audit.

Improve real time detection technologies

South Australian actions

- 1.22 SafeWork SA will consult with ASSEA as required to support the evaluation, development and implementation of real time asbestos detection technologies, contingent on approval by the Office of the Technical Regulator as a suitable and viable method for identifying asbestos-containing materials

Improve and promote the 'National Residential Asbestos Heatmap'

South Australian actions

- 1.23 SafeWork SA will promote the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap by including relevant information and direct links on SafeWork SA's website.
- 1.24 All government agencies will provide property data for government-owned residential properties to SafeWork SA for provision to ASSEA to support the development and accuracy of the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap.

Promote the use of technology to achieve a consistent ACM risk assessment approach

South Australian actions

- 1.25 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in promoting the use of technology to support a consistent approach to risk assessment of asbestos containing material across jurisdictions.
- 1.26 All government agencies will apply a structured risk assessment matrix, considering friability, condition, and accessibility, to all identified asbestos containing materials in government-owned properties, with results integrated into site-specific asbestos registers within the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS).

Support the establishment of a national, publicly accessible platform for asbestos registers

South Australian actions

- 1.27 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in supporting the development and implementation of a national, publicly accessible platform for asbestos registers.
- 1.28 SafeWork SA will develop and publish a snapshot identifying the most common suburbs in South Australia with asbestos containing materials, based on asbestos removal notifications.
- 1.29 SafeWork SA will investigate the establishment of a national, publicly accessible platform for asbestos registers by contributing relevant property data and endorsing national coordination efforts. Currently the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS) is the endorsed platform.

Conduct regular awareness surveys and evaluations of awareness campaigns

South Australian actions:

- 1.30 SafeWork SA will publish asbestos awareness information and campaign materials on both the SafeWork SA website and the dedicated Asbestos.sa.gov.au platform.
- 1.31 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will promote asbestos awareness and provide guidance documents and advisory support to South Australian Government departments and agencies.

Use artificial intelligence to detect legacy asbestos, including in remote indigenous communities, to inform better management

South Australian actions

- 1.32 All government agencies will support the use of artificial intelligence to detect legacy asbestos by contributing property data, including from remote and Indigenous communities such as the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands to ASSEA's national dataset used in the Residential Asbestos Heatmap.

Develop jurisdictional asbestos profiles which include details of asbestos stocks and flows

South Australian actions

- 1.33 SafeWork SA will liaise with ASSEA as appropriate, to support the development of jurisdictional asbestos profiles, contributing regulatory insights and relevant data where available.

- 1.34 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will act as custodian of the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS). Agencies will be responsible for maintaining their own asbestos data within SAMIS, including:
 - site-specific asbestos registers
 - supporting documentation, including management and removal plans
 - risk assessments and risk-ranking of asbestos for each site.
- 1.35 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will generate and provide whole-of-government annual reports via SafeWork SA to ASSEA using data held in SAMIS, showing:
 - prioritised asbestos records by risk level
 - annual trends in asbestos management across South Australian Government departments and agencies.
- 1.36 The Environment Protection Authority will include and report on transport and disposal records in annual report data.

National Priority 2 – Risk control and prioritised removal

Asbestos materials have reached end of product life and are degrading, increasing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres. Without significant intervention, Australia will still have around one million tonnes of in situ ACMS in the built environment by 2060.

National asbestos awareness campaigns

Deliver national asbestos awareness campaigns targeting:

- do it yourself (DIY) and tradespeople
- Indigenous Australians
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- remote and regional communities
- buyers and sellers of residential property
- renters and landlords of residential property
- school communities
- property owners/managers to promote the benefits of proactive removal
- duty holders under duties under work health and safety legislation.

South Australian actions

- 2.1 SafeWork SA will support ASSEA in delivering targeted National Asbestos Awareness Campaigns, focusing on:
 - do it yourself (DIY) and tradespeople
 - Indigenous Australians
 - remote and regional communities
 - property owners and managers
 - duty holders under duties under work health and safety legislation.
- 2.2 SafeWork SA will actively participate in National Asbestos Awareness Week each November through events, communications, and public engagement.

- 2.3 The Local Government Association will promote national asbestos awareness campaigns within local communities, particularly in regional and remote areas, as required.

Provide resources and guidance for health and safety representatives to ensure they can effectively exercise their functions in relation to asbestos risk controls

South Australian actions

- 2.4 SafeWork SA will publish and promote the *Health and Safety Representative Strategy 2024–2026* on the SafeWork SA website, providing guidance to Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) on exercising their functions in relation to asbestos risk controls.
- 2.5 SafeWork SA will continue to publish and update relevant information and resources to assist HSRs in understanding and managing asbestos-related risks.
- 2.6 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will provide practical resources to support HSRs, including:
 - across government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets
 - Department for Infrastructure and Transport Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal for Government Sites
 - Requirements and Expectations for Department for Infrastructure and Transport T Prequalified Asbestos Management Consultants
 - Asbestos Training Package.

Review the effectiveness of vocational education and training courses for licensing asbestos removalists, including for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds

South Australian actions

- 2.7 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in reviewing the effectiveness of vocational education and training (VET) courses for asbestos removalist licensing, with a focus on accessibility and relevance for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- 2.8 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will seek a review of its asbestos-related training materials where required, to ensure they meet current legislation.

Assess industry capacity to remove asbestos containing materials

South Australian actions

- 2.9 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in facilitating the assessment of industry capacity to remove asbestos containing materials, including workforce availability, licensing, and regional coverage.
- 2.10 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain and apply a prequalification system that ensures only appropriately skilled and experienced companies are permitted to provide asbestos management and removal services on South Australian Government sites. Suppliers must demonstrate:
 - relevant experience and technical capacity
 - adequate resources and qualified personnel
 - robust management systems.

Develop best practice approach for government-funded asbestos removal program

South Australian actions

- 2.11 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in facilitating the development of best practice approaches for government-funded asbestos removal programs, including regulatory guidance and stakeholder engagement.
- 2.12 The South Australian Government will consider and explore options for grants and subsidies to incentivise proactive asbestos removal, particularly for residential properties and vulnerable communities.
- 2.13 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will manage the Asbestos Removal Fund under the Operational Guideline, ensuring structured, government-funded asbestos removal across South Australian Government sites.

Facilitate a whole of government approach to compliance and enforcement by developing guidelines for regulatory agencies and local government to work together

South Australian actions

- 2.14 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in developing guidelines that support collaboration between regulatory agencies and local government to ensure a coordinated approach to asbestos compliance and enforcement.
- 2.15 The Local Government Association will engage in discussions with SafeWork SA to clarify expectations and explore opportunities for collaboration in the development of compliance and enforcement guidelines
- 2.16 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will contribute to a consistent government and industry approach by reviewing the Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government, and the Assets Requirements and Expectations for DIT Prequalified Asbestos Management Consultants.

Progress through Safe Work Australia processes a review and revision of the model work health and safety Regulations (WHS Regulations) to improve asbestos risks control and support prioritised removal

Progress through Safe Work Australia processes a review and revision of the model work health and safety Regulations (WHS Regulations) to improve asbestos risks control and support prioritised removal including:

- training
- the effectiveness of asbestos management plans in ensuring prioritised removal of asbestos containing materials within specified timeframes
- transition to lowering the occupational exposure limit in line with changes agreed by the European Commission
- the ability of WHS regulators to issue notices in relation to high risk asbestos containing material installed prior to 31 December 2003
- the definition of friable asbestos
- the effectiveness of in situ risk controls including encapsulation unlicensed removal.

South Australian actions

- 2.17 SafeWork SA will assist ASSEA, where required, in progressing the review and revision of the model WHS Regulations to improve asbestos risk control and support prioritised removal, including:

- training requirements
 - effectiveness of asbestos management plans in ensuring timely removal of asbestos containing materials
 - transition to lower occupational exposure limits in line with European Commission standards
 - regulatory powers to issue notices for high risk removal of asbestos containing materials installed prior to 31 December 2003
 - clarification of the definition of friable asbestos
 - evaluation of in situ risk controls such as encapsulation
 - addressing issues related to unlicensed removal.
- 2.18 SafeWork SA will undertake all necessary work to amend the South Australian *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012* in alignment with any changes made to the model Work Health and Safety Regulations.
 - 2.19 SafeWork SA will consider introducing prohibited asbestos notices under the South Australia *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* to strengthen enforcement capabilities.
 - 2.20 The South Australian Government, through the Asbestos Working Group, will consider and investigate options for appropriate recognition in circumstances where full asbestos removal may not be feasible, ensuring risk is still managed and documented.

Progress through Safe Work Australia processes, a review and revision of model work health and safety (WHS codes) of practice and guidance to align with any changes to the model WHS regulations

South Australian actions

- 2.21 Promote guidance material developed by Safe Work Australia and created guidance material in line with material developed by Safe Work Australia.
- 2.22 SafeWork SA will undertake the necessary process to recommend national codes of practice are adopted in South Australia.

Investigate expanding corporate reporting obligations to include asbestos liabilities in financial statements as part of environmental, social and governance reporting

South Australian actions

- 2.23 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will act as custodian of the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS). Agencies will be responsible for maintaining their own asbestos data within SAMIS, including:
 - site-specific asbestos registers
 - supporting documentation, including management and removal plans
 - risk assessments and risk-ranking of asbestos for each site.
- 2.24 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will provide the data annually to SafeWork SA to support broader analysis of asbestos liabilities and inform potential corporate reporting frameworks.

Developing an annual campaign to promote compliance with asbestos related laws

South Australian actions

- 2.25 SafeWork SA will continue conducting proactive compliance campaigns focused on asbestos related laws, targeting workplaces, contractors, and duty holders.
- 2.26 SafeWork SA will integrate these campaigns into an annual calendar of compliance activities, aligned with national awareness efforts and regulatory priorities.
- 2.27 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will support compliance promotion by maintaining and making available the following resources to South Australian Government departments, agencies, contractors, and suppliers:
 - Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets
 - Requirements and Expectations for Department for Infrastructure and Transport Prequalified Asbestos Management Consultants
 - Asbestos Training Package.

Ensure effective oversight of permit and licensing regimes

South Australian actions

- 2.28 SafeWork SA will continue to ensure effective oversight of asbestos-related permit and licensing regimes, including:
 - monitoring compliance with licensing conditions
 - supporting consistent enforcement of regulatory requirements
 - participating in national discussions on licensing improvements.
- 2.29 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain a prequalification system that ensures only appropriately skilled and experienced companies are permitted to provide asbestos management and removal services on South Australian Government sites. Prequalification criteria include:
 - demonstrated experience and technical capacity
 - adequate resources and qualified personnel
 - robust management systems.

Raise awareness of penalties for non-compliance and publicise successful enforcement outcomes

South Australian actions

- 2.30 SafeWork SA will continue to raise awareness of penalties for noncompliance with asbestos -related laws through public communications, campaigns, and stakeholder engagement.
- 2.31 SafeWork SA will continue to publicise successful enforcement outcomes to reinforce the importance of compliance and deter unsafe practices.
- 2.32 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will include a legislative compliance module in its asbestos training package, highlighting penalties for non-compliance with asbestos laws and regulations.

Develop a risk-based, prioritised ACM removal program for publicly owned and controlled resources

South Australian actions

- 2.33 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will act as custodian of the Strategic Asset Management Information System (SAMIS). Agencies will be responsible for maintaining their own asbestos data within SAMIS, including:
 - site-specific asbestos registers
 - supporting documentation, including management and removal plans
 - risk assessments and risk-ranking of asbestos for each site.
- 2.34 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will generate and provide whole-of-government annual reports via SafeWork SA to ASSEA using data held in SAMIS, showing:
 - prioritised asbestos records by risk level
 - annual trends in asbestos management across South Australian Government departments and agencies.
- 2.35 SafeWork SA will consider collaborating with ASSEA and other agencies to coordinate and support the development of a prioritised ACM removal program, using data from SAMIS and other sources.

Support local government to administer devolved responsibilities

South Australian actions

- 2.36 SafeWork SA will provide advice and guidance to local government authorities to help them appropriately administer any devolved responsibilities related to asbestos management, including:
 - responding to public complaints
 - managing illegal dumping of asbestos containing materials
 - enforcing compliance with asbestos related laws in council managed facilities and land.
- 2.37 The Local Government Association will engage with SafeWork SA and ASSEA to clarify expectations and explore collaborative development of practical guidelines for local government's role in asbestos management.

National priority 3 – Safe and effective transport and disposal

Environment protection agencies and local authorities across Australia continue to face the challenge of illegal disposal of asbestos which harms both human health and the environment and results in significant clean-up costs to the community. The barriers to the legal disposal of asbestos are cost, convenience and awareness.

Deliver National Asbestos Awareness campaigns targeting illegal disposal of asbestos containing materials, and responding to disaster events

South Australian actions

- 3.1 Consumer and Business Services will support the distribution of asbestos awareness materials to relevant audiences, including industry licence holders, where appropriate and beneficial.

- 3.2 The South Australian Government will explore options to increase penalties for illegal dumping of asbestos-containing materials to deter noncompliance and reinforce public safety.

Develop guides

Develop guides on:

- asbestos contamination in construction and demolition of waste
- asbestos safety for waste facility operators and workers
- how to classify asbestos waste consistently and accurately under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) waste codes
- emergency response.

South Australian actions

- 3.3 The Environment Protection Authority, ASSEA and SafeWork SA, will collaborate, where required, to develop guidance documents covering:
 - asbestos contamination in construction and demolition waste.
 - asbestos safety protocols for waste facility operators and workers.
 - consistent and accurate classification of asbestos waste under the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) waste codes.
 - emergency response procedures for asbestos-related incidents.

Investigate the consistency between the requirements for determining asbestos presence in soils under environment protection and work health and safety laws

South Australian actions

- 3.4 The South Australian Government will explore the initiation of a collaboration between the Environment Protection Authority and SafeWork SA to investigate and harmonise the regulatory requirements for identifying and managing asbestos containing materials in soil.

Investigate creating an additional waste classification code for asbestos-contaminated soil and rubble so that it is reported separately under the NEPM waste codes (N120 and N220)

South Australian actions

- 3.5 The Environment Protection Authority will explore the potential to create an additional waste classification code for asbestos-contaminated soil and rubble through the MCW Working Group.

Response to and investigate asbestos-related complaints and incidences

South Australian actions

- 3.6 SafeWork SA with the support of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport will continue and enhance their roles in responding to asbestos related complaints and incidents.
- 3.7 SafeWork SA will:
 - maintain its complaint response and incident investigation functions under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)*

- enforce compliance through inspections, notices, and prosecutions where necessary
 - provide public access to reporting channels and guidance via asbestos.sa.gov.au
- 3.8 Department for Infrastructure and Transport's Asbestos Advisory Team will at a cost to the relevant agency:
 - deliver asbestos advisory services to SA Government departments and agencies
 - conduct exposure incident investigations and manage asbestos-related incidents in government-controlled sites
 - administer the Treasury Asbestos Removal Fund to support safe removal in public infrastructure.
- 3.9 The Environment Protection Authority will:
 - continue to respond to all asbestos incidents which are not deemed local nuisance or litter control matters
 - continue to maintain an asbestos advisory line to provide guidance or direction if the appropriate contact is not the Environment Protection Authority
 - formulate a policy for the handling of asbestos related matters including what level of contamination represents a level of concern, and whether a matter is civil.

Develop an annual campaign to promote compliance with asbestos-related laws

South Australian actions

- 3.10 South Australia will implement a coordinated annual campaign to promote compliance with asbestos-related laws across government, industry, and the community.
- 3.11 SafeWork SA will lead the campaign through its established annual proactive compliance program, which targets licensed asbestos removalists and assessors.
- 3.12 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will support the campaign by promoting compliance through:
 - the Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets, which outlines mandatory procedures for asbestos handling in government buildings
 - the Requirements and Expectations for Department for Infrastructure and Transport Prequalified Asbestos Management Consultants, which sets standards for consultants involved in asbestos-related work
 - making available on its website the Department for Infrastructure and Transport asbestos training package to all South Australian Government departments, agencies, and suppliers whose workers require asbestos awareness training.
- 3.13 Inter-agency collaboration will be coordinated through the Asbestos and Silica Strategic Group, which includes representatives from SafeWork SA, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, the Environment Protection Authority, SA Health, and local government. These agencies will contribute to campaign planning, resource sharing, and consistent messaging.
- 3.14 The Environment Protection Authority will support the campaign through promotion on social media channels including ensuring currency of Environment Protection Authority website information.

Ensure effective oversight of permit and licensing regimes

South Australia remains committed to strengthening the oversight and effectiveness of asbestos-related permit and licensing systems.

South Australian actions

- 3.15 SafeWork SA will continue to lead regulatory oversight of asbestos removal and assessor licensing in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* (SA) and the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*. This includes ongoing compliance campaigns, audits, and enforcement actions targeting licensed asbestos removalists and assessors.
- 3.16 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will maintain and enhance the prequalification system for asbestos management and removal service providers at South Australian Government sites. This system ensures that only appropriately qualified and experienced contractors are eligible to undertake asbestos-related work on government projects. Department for Infrastructure and Transport will continue to assess contractor performance and compliance with asbestos management guidelines.
- 3.17 Inter-agency collaboration will be strengthened through formal agreements and shared protocols. Department for Infrastructure and Transport and SafeWork SA have an existing arrangement to communicate the loss or suspension of contractor licences, ensuring that non-compliant contractors are excluded from government tenders.
- 3.18 Workforce development will be supported by exploring options to increase the number of qualified asbestos contractors in South Australia. This may include reviewing training pathways, certification processes, and incentives to attract new entrants into the field.

Raise awareness of penalties for non-compliance and publicise successful enforcement outcomes

South Australia will continue to strengthen public and industry awareness of the legal consequences of non-compliance with asbestos regulations.

South Australian actions:

- 3.19 SafeWork SA will maintain its proactive compliance campaigns targeting licensed asbestos removalists and assessors. These campaigns include audits, investigations and enforcement actions, with outcomes such as statutory notices, licence suspensions and cancellations being publicly reported to reinforce accountability and deterrence.
- 3.20 Department for Infrastructure and Transport will incorporate awareness of penalties and enforcement outcomes into its asbestos training packages for contractors and government agencies. This training will highlight the importance of compliance and the consequences of breaches under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* (SA).
- 3.21 Inter-agency collaboration will be enhanced to ensure consistent messaging and enforcement. Agencies such as SA Health, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and the Local Government Association of South Australia will be engaged to support awareness initiatives and share enforcement data where appropriate.
- 3.22 The Environment Protection Authority will maintain activities associated with raising awareness for non-compliance and publicise successful enforcement outcomes.

Develop a nationally consistent asbestos waste tracking system which integrates with asbestos removal notifications

South Australian actions

- 3.23 South Australia supports the development of a nationally consistent asbestos waste tracking system that integrates with removal notifications, in alignment with national priorities for safe and effective transport and disposal of asbestos waste.
- 3.24 SafeWork SA will collaborate with the Environment Protection Authority to explore integration between asbestos removal notifications and the Environmental Protection Authority's existing 'WasteTracker' system. WasteTracker is South Australia's secure online platform for tracking the movement of controlled waste, including asbestos. Recent updates to the system include fields for recording SafeWork SA notification numbers, enhancing traceability and regulatory oversight.
- 3.25 The Environmental Protection Authority is actively seeking feedback from industry and government stakeholders to improve WasteTracker's functionality, including its capacity to track asbestos waste more effectively and align with national systems.

Improve incentives to encourage responsible ACM disposal

South Australian actions

- 3.26 The Government will consider a transport subsidy to reduce transport costs associated with moving of waste to a licensed facility.

Identify illegal ACM disposal patterns and hotspots

South Australian actions

- 3.27 South Australia is committed to identifying and addressing illegal disposal of asbestos-containing materials which pose significant risks to public health and the environment.
- 3.28 The South Australian Government, through the Environment Protection Authority, will explore options to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and increase penalties for illegal asbestos dumping.
- 3.29 The Environmental Protection Authority will continue to monitor and investigate illegal dumping incidents using its WasteTracker system and other surveillance tools. This includes identifying disposal hotspots and patterns through data analysis and community reporting.
- 3.30 To reduce the incentive for illegal dumping, the Government will consider allowing free disposal of asbestos containing materials at regulated waste facilities, particularly for small-scale residential renovations. This measure aims to remove cost barriers and encourage lawful disposal.

National Priority 9 – Preventing and responding effectively to illegal importation of products containing asbestos

Until a worldwide ban is achieved on the production and trade of asbestos and ACMs there is a risk of asbestos products entering Australia unlawfully. The Australian Border Force is responsible for enforcing the import prohibition at the border and works together with WHS regulators and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to trace imports that have entered Australia and commence remediation.

Ensure effective oversight of import/export permits

South Australian actions

- 9.1 South Australia is committed to supporting national efforts to prevent the importation and exportation of asbestos-containing materials in alignment with federal regulations and international obligations.
- 9.2 SafeWork SA will continue to strengthen compliance and enforcement efforts by maintaining active membership in the Imported Materials with Asbestos Working Group. This national working group, coordinated by the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA), facilitates inter-jurisdictional collaboration to monitor and respond to asbestos risks in imported goods.
- 9.3 SafeWork SA will also contribute to national awareness by regularly publishing safety alerts related to imported asbestos materials on the national asbestos.gov.au website. These alerts help inform importers, customs brokers, and the public about high-risk products and recent detections, such as asbestos in prefabricated buildings, vehicle parts, and consumer goods
- 9.4 South Australia will continue to support federal enforcement led by the Australian Border Force which is responsible for regulating asbestos imports under the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*.