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Government
of South Australia

South Australian Asbestos Action Plan 2019-2023

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PURPOSE

This South Australian Asbestos Action Plan (SA Action Plan) is a statement of strategic actions that the South Australian Government will undertake in order to implement the *National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management 2019-2023* (NSP 2019-23) published by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA).

The NSP 2019-23 builds on previous national plans, and relies on all Australian jurisdictions taking collective and sustained action to address the harmful legacy of asbestos in homes, workplaces, and the environment.

The NSP 2019-23 contains National Priorities that aim to improve asbestos awareness and management, as well as National Targets to be used to measure progress and the assess the effectiveness of the combined strategic actions under each of the National Priorities. ASEA will use the data collected from jurisdictions to create a national picture of Australia’s collective efforts to prevent asbestos exposure.

This SA Action Plan, developed by the SA Asbestos Action Plan Strategic Group, aligns with the National Priorities contained in the NSP 2019-23. The SA Asbestos Action Plan Strategic Group is supported by the SA Asbestos Action Plan Working Group.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is important to note that while some departments have lead roles in administering legislation (i.e. Safework SA, EPA) and advising on compliance (i.e. DIT) this does not replace or remove the obligations of all government agencies under the South Australian *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* and *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012*.

The "no contracting out" provision is fundamental to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)*. This provision essentially means that duty holders cannot limit or modify their WHS obligations by way of a contract with a third party.

Department/Agency	Area of responsibility
Consumer and Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of general consumer advice in matters where there is a dispute between a consumer and a business according to the Australian Consumer Law (SA). • Enforcement of product safety provisions of the Australian Consumer Law (SA) regarding asbestos within consumer goods.
Department for Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of schools containing asbestos
Department for Energy and Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds geoscience and mineral information for resources across the state, including naturally occurring asbestos

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Department/Agency	Area of responsibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure assessment and approval processes under the Mining Act 1971, comply with relevant asbestos legislation • Management of properties containing asbestos.
Department for Environment and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage South Australian national parks, botanic gardens and heritage places
Department for Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public Health Act 2011 • Public Health, Infrastructure (Government buildings)
Department for Infrastructure and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works in partnership with Government agencies and Industry to manage the delivery of social infrastructure (building construction) projects. • Manages Prequalification register of Demolition and Asbestos Removal contractors. • Across Government Annual Asbestos Inspection Program • Manage prequalification register of Professional and Technical Services for Asbestos Management, includes survey/re-inspection & air monitoring/compliance services • Provision of <u>advice</u> to Department assets/projects and other Government Agencies regarding legislative compliance and asbestos hazard management.
Environment Protection Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Environment Protection Act 1993 – Environment Protection Regulations 2009 • License landfills and transfer stations that accept asbestos waste • Licence transport of asbestos waste • Regulate illegal dumping • Respond to environmental contamination • Work closely with SafeWork SA under an MOU arrangement
Forestry SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment protection (illegal dumping). This is in the context of the agency as a public land manager. • Managing asbestos in government buildings. ForestrySA has very minor asbestos but still requires a register at each relevant site.
Green Industries SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the State's capability and resilience in the area of disaster waste management

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Department/Agency	Area of responsibility
Local councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Environmental Health Officers are authorised officers under the South Australian Public Health Act 2011 • Local councils have responsibility for waste management and often deal with issues around illegal dumping of asbestos containing materials, as well as general public health complaints relating to asbestos.
SA Housing Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, implement and provide housing services for people who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, and works with government and non-government organisations to improve the standard of - and access to - housing across the State
SA Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of buildings containing asbestos
SA Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work health and safety – licenced asbestos removal company due to presence of asbestos in legacy network infrastructure, older properties have identified in-situ asbestos containing material with prioritised risk based removal program • Environment protection – transport, storage and disposal of asbestos waste
SafeWork SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administer legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work Health and Safety Act 2012 – Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 • Issue licenses to asbestos removalists and assessors • Regulate the management, control and removal of asbestos in workplaces • Regulate asbestos removal by a person conducting a business or undertaking at domestic premises • Maintain the asbestos.sa.gov website • Member of the SA Asbestos coalition • Member of the HWSA Imports Working Group • Work closely with the EPA under an MOU arrangement
South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency management planning across South Australia

PRIORITIES

This SA Action Plan is aligned with the National Priorities in the NSP 2019-23:

- National Priority 1 – Improve asbestos awareness to influence behavioural change
- National Priority 2 – Identification and effective legacy management
- National Priority 3 – Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management
- National Priority 4 – International collaboration and leadership

National Targets contained in the NSP 2019-23 are the following:

- Target 1 – Increased awareness of the health risks of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and where to source information.
- Target 2 – All governments have identified and assessed the risks associated with ACMs in publicly owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure.
- Target 3 – All jurisdictions have schedules and processes for the prioritised safe removal according to risk of ACMs from public buildings and infrastructure, and safe disposal of that material.
- Target 4 – All regulators have in place and have implemented asbestos compliance programs.
- Target 5 – All commercial buildings which are required by law to maintain asbestos registers, have up-to-date asbestos registers and management plans that are actively being implemented.
- Target 6 – All regulators are investigating, prosecuting and penalising serious known breaches of asbestos-related laws including of illegal waste disposal and importation.
- Target 7 – Easier and cheaper disposal of asbestos waste.
- Target 8 – Bans of asbestos production and use in South-East Asia and the Pacific have been influenced and progressed.
- Target 9 – Develop an evidence-based national picture that assesses the likelihood of ACMs being present in the residential environment.

Targets 8 and 9 only relate to activities undertaken by ASEA and not to those undertaken by jurisdictions.

MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Each agency is responsible for reporting their annual progress report on strategic actions contained in the South Australian Asbestos Action Plan to SWSANationalMeetingsSecretariat@sa.gov.au

The South Australian Asbestos Action Plan Secretariat is responsible for collating and tabling the progress report to the strategic working group for approval prior to submitting to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency.

PRIORITIES FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Priority 1 – Awareness

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
<p>1.1 Producing targeted comprehensive and nationally consistent asbestos awareness advice and information campaigns for the community and workers.</p>	<p>Identify trends and emerging issues to support the provision of evidence-based guidance material.</p>	<p>SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority Department for Health and Wellbeing Local Government Association Consumer and Business Services</p>
	<p>Regulators to develop guidance material prior to commencing a compliance campaign.</p>	<p>SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority</p>
	<p>Produce asbestos awareness advice and social media campaigns for the community and workers.</p>	<p>SafeWork SA Department for Health and Wellbeing Environment Protection Authority Local Government Association Consumer and Business Services</p>

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Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
1.2 Producing additional practical information material on asbestos safety in the home, workplace and the environment.	Undertake analysis of the state government asbestos website (www.asbestos.sa.gov.au) to identify how we can increase traffic to the website and direct people to the information easier	SafeWork SA
	Based on the state government asbestos website analysis, relevant agencies to review the content to ensure it is current.	SafeWork SA Department for Health and Wellbeing Environment Protection Authority Local Government Association Consumer and Business Services
	Undertake an analysis of the questions asked through call centres and ensure adequate information is available on the state government asbestos website	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority Department for Health and Wellbeing Local Government Association Consumer and Business Services
1.3 Improving education and training for those at risk of exposure to asbestos	Develop information on what training is expected for tradespersons who undertake asbestos related or asbestos removal work.	SafeWork SA

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
<p>fibres or who make decisions about asbestos containing materials.</p>	<p>For work on all Government property, ensure tradespersons who undertake asbestos related or asbestos removal work are adequately trained (as determined in above action) and a copy of the training record is received.</p> <p><i>This requirement is to be included in 'Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i></p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>All agencies</p>
	<p>Develop and implement an across-government guideline document (<i>'Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i>) which stipulates how asbestos is managed and removed in government assets regardless of their facilities management arrangements. The guideline is intended to inform individual agency policy and procedure regarding asbestos.</p> <p>This is to include requirements for risk assessment, management recommendations and prioritisation, training/certification requirements for trades, site managers, asset managers etc.</p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>All agencies</p>
	<p>Developing training materials for the management of asbestos containing materials in government Infrastructure to ensure consistency when making decisions.</p>	<p>Department for Education</p> <p>Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>Department for Health and Wellbeing</p>

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Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
	Develop information on negative pressure (tight fitting) respirator fit testing to ensure workers whose work brings them into contact with asbestos containing materials are not exposed to airborne asbestos fibres.	SafeWork SA
1.4 Establishing or maintaining trusted single sources of asbestos-related information at State level.	Ensure all agencies websites link to and refer to the state government asbestos website as the trusted single source of asbestos-related information in South Australia.	SafeWork SA All agencies
	Adoption of the ' <i>Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets</i> ' to inform department specific policies and procedures	All agencies
1.5 Continuing to develop powerful awareness messages.	Develop and implement a coordinated agency program of work in regard to National Asbestos Awareness Week (November)	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority Department for Health and Wellbeing SA Local Government Association of SA
	Regulators will use media platforms when they have taken action against non-compliances.	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority Department for Health and Wellbeing SA

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
1.6 Expanding and sharing research and information on asbestos-related diseases to improve policy and practice.	Sharing of asbestos research and information through Across Government Facilities Management Arrangements (AGFMA) and other relevant inter- and intra-agency assets management working groups and forums	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All agencies

Priority 2 – Identification and management

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
2.1 Identifying and promoting robust models for identifying and grading asbestos containing materials.	Review the process used by Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency and national guidance to grade asbestos to determine next actions	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All Agencies
	Develop a consistent model for identifying and priority risk rating (grading) asbestos containing materials in Government buildings. <i>This model is to be included in 'Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i>	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All Agencies
2.2 Collaborating to develop a national picture of where asbestos containing materials are located in homes, commercial and public buildings, infrastructure and land.	Develop a snapshot of common asbestos locations within home/business utilising the asbestos removal notification portal and publish on the state government asbestos website	SafeWork SA
	Develop a snapshot of the most common suburbs that have asbestos material based on asbestos removal notifications and publish on the state government asbestos website	SafeWork SA

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
	Identify where asbestos containing materials are located in public buildings, infrastructure and land and develop a factsheet.	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All agencies
2.3 Promoting practical and effective information on how to stabilise and contain asbestos containing materials in homes, workplaces and the environment.	Develop information on how to stabilise asbestos containing materials in homes, workplaces and the environment and publish on the state government asbestos website.	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority Department for Infrastructure and Transport Consumer and business Services Local Government Association of SA
2.4 Encouraging effective management of asbestos contaminated land.	Develop guidance material on Managing Asbestos in Soil	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority
	Develop guidance material on the management of construction and demolition material	Environment Protection Authority SafeWork SA
	Guidance on asbestos contaminated land management to be included in the <i>'Across Government Guideline for</i>	Department for Infrastructure and Transport

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
	<i>Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i>	All agencies
2.5 Ensuring timely review and revision of emergency and natural disaster planning.	Review the Disaster waste management guidelines to include on-property waste assessments and update guidance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-property handling of waste • Asbestos and Asbestos contaminated waste • Household hazardous waste 	Green Industries SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority
	Identify the roles and responsibilities of each agency during and following a natural disaster	Green Industries
	Develop a process to identify the skills, capabilities, and capacity of prequalify contractors to effectively manage a clean-up following a natural disaster	Green Industries
2.6 Ensuring the provision of information about asbestos containing materials at point of sale for all homes, buildings, infrastructure and land.	Hold a webinar on asbestos management for persons with management and control of a workplace (owners and property managers) containing asbestos material.	SafeWork SA
	Develop information on 'who is the person with management and control of a workplace' and publish on the state government asbestos website.	SafeWork SA
	Ensuring the availability of information about asbestos containing materials for consumers and tradespeople.	Consumer and Business Services SafeWork SA

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
		Environment Protection Authority Local Government Association of SA
2.7 Improving and aligning asbestos-related legal frameworks.	Assess existing asbestos management practices across government agencies to ensure a consistent approach.	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All agencies
	Ensure that asbestos risks in all government assets are identified and assessed with asbestos management plans in place.	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All agencies
2.8 Ensuring effective compliance and enforcement of relevant laws by regulatory agencies.	Proactive compliance campaigns are undertaken and tougher action taken against poor performers	SafeWork SA Environment Protection Authority
	Coordinate information, and disseminate to local government through individual councils in order to assist them in ensuring that consistent information and advice is available to the public.	Local Government Association of SA
	Continue to strengthen the administration of asbestos licensing under work health and safety laws including a process for suspending or cancelling an asbestos licence where a licence holder contravenes the legislation.	SafeWork SA

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
	Seek opportunities for SafeWork SA and agencies with prequalified contractors who undertake asbestos related/removal work to share information on compliance.	SafeWork SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport
	Ensure that all Regulators are investigating, prosecuting and penalising serious breaches of asbestos-related laws including unsafe removal practices, unlicensed work, illegal waste disposal and transportation and illegal importation.	All Regulators
	Develop and maintain the capacity of WHS inspectors, EPH authorised officers and council officers to ensure they have a high level of skills, knowledge and confidence to deal with asbestos matters.	All Regulators
	Conduct joint site audits of EPA-licensed landfills and waste transfer stations	Environment Protection Authority SafeWork SA
	Review the process for issuing fines to enable WHS inspectors to deal with asbestos in workplaces	SafeWork SA

Priority 3 – Removal and waste management

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
3.1 Improving the quality of asbestos-related training and ensuring effective oversight of licensing regimes.	Engage with asbestos training organisations to ensure adequate training in the identification and safe handling of, and suitable control measures for asbestos is provided to workers involved in asbestos removal work or in the carrying out of asbestos-related work, are trained	SafeWork SA
	Review the effectiveness of the asbestos licensing application process to ensure only competent persons are issued a licence.	SafeWork SA
	Review the current regime for the transport of asbestos by contractors and homeowners to determine whether it is a disincentive to the proper disposal of asbestos waste.	Environment Protection Authority
3.2 Ensuring existing tools for prioritising removal of asbestos containing materials are tested, promoted and used.	<p>Ensure that government agencies that own or control assets have prioritised schedules based on priority risk ratings (grading) for the safe removal of asbestos.</p> <p>Guidance on prioritisation, including considerations regarding cost versus benefit, to be included in the <i>'Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i></p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>All agencies</p>
3.3 Developing and sharing jurisdictional policies on prioritised removal of asbestos containing materials from	<p>Guidance on prioritisation, including considerations regarding cost versus benefit, to be included in the <i>'Across Government Guideline for Asbestos Management and Removal in Government Assets'</i></p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>All agencies</p>

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government-owned and controlled buildings, land and infrastructure.	Sharing of information relevant inter- and intra-agency assets management working groups and forums	All agencies
3.4 Prioritising the removal of asbestos containing materials by commercial premise owners from buildings, land and infrastructure.	Ensure all person with management and control of a workplace containing asbestos has up to date asbestos registers and management plans by undertaking proactive compliance audits.	SafeWork SA
	Ensure that government agencies that own or control assets have prioritised schedules based on priority risk ratings (grading) for the safe removal of asbestos.	Department for Infrastructure and Transport All agencies
3.5 Developing incentives to encourage the safe removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials from homes.	Share information with councils on the incentives used around Australia to encourage the safe removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials from homes	Local Government Association of SA
3.6 Improving the accessibility and availability of waste disposal facilities for asbestos containing materials.	Publish a register of sites in South Australia that accept asbestos waste on the state government asbestos website	Environment Protection Authority

Priority 4 – National collaboration and leadership

Strategic actions	Actions	Responsible Department/Agencies
4.1 Continuing education of the import supply chain to prevent asbestos containing materials entering South Australia.	Publish safety alerts associated with imported asbestos material on the asbestos.gov website	SafeWork SA
	Respond effectively to imported materials containing asbestos found in the South Australian supply chain in accordance with established protocols.	SafeWork SA Consumer and Business Services