

NSW Asbestos Management Update

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Presentation to the Hunter Councils Asbestos Forum
10th August 2017



Presentation Content

- LGNSW, HACA & ASEA
- Ombudsman's Reports 2010 & 2017
- The State Wide Asbestos Plan
- Asbestos Policy Update
- Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarships 2017
- Asbestos Awareness Week
- Asbestos Management Resources at LGNSW

Local Government NSW

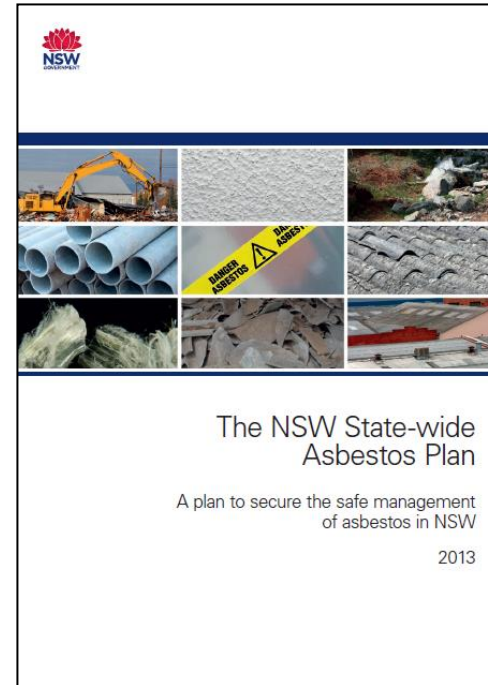
- Peak body for member councils in NSW
- Represents general-purpose councils and the special-purpose county councils
- Provides advocacy, industrial relations and specialist services to councils
- Promotes NSW councils to the community
- Active member of the HACA

Asbestos Safety & Eradication Agency

- Statutory authority established on 1 July 2013
- The goals are:
 - Awareness & Best Practice
 - Identification & Removal
 - Research & International Leadership
- Senate Enquiry into Illegal Building Products
- International Asbestos Safety and Eradication Summit 2017

Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA)

- SafeWork NSW
- Environment Protection Authority
- Fire & Rescue NSW
- Department of Industry
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Dust Diseases Authority
- Local Government NSW
- NSW Health
- Office of Emergency Management
- Office of Local Government
- DPC
- LFAI Taskforce



Background

- Ombudsman Report 2010
 - “Responding to the asbestos problem - The need for significant reform in NSW”
- Systematic failings in asbestos management
 - Alarming lack of knowledge and interest on the part of many councils
 - Poor grasp of councils roles and responsibilities
 - 53% council websites had no asbestos information at all
 - Councils with asbestos information on websites were communicating misinformation and misunderstanding

Recommendations - 2010

The Ombudsman's report recommended:

- Establishment of a dedicated authority and Act
- Development of a resourced state wide plan
- Remediation of the Woods Reef Mine
- Development of an awareness campaign
- A model asbestos policy for councils
- Consider vendor disclosure laws

State Wide Asbestos Plan (SWAP)

1. Research

- Increase understanding of current asbestos issues
- Identify emerging hazards, risks and develop controls

2. Risk Communication

- Raise public awareness and improve knowledge

3. Prevention

- Of all pathways to contact with airborne asbestos fibres

4. Co-ordination

- Legislation, regulations, roles and responsibilities

SWAP Actions LGNSW & Councils

Priority 2 - Risk Communication:

- Develop and issue a Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils
- Assisting councils to adopt and implement the Model Asbestos Policy
- Develop specific educative tools
- Coordinate and disseminate information to local government

SWAP Actions LGNSW & Councils

Priority 3 - Prevention

- Promoted the existence and use of the Regional Illegal Program in regional and rural areas
- Future expected needs of disposed asbestos materials and reduce barriers for safe disposal.

SWAP Actions LGNSW & Councils

Priority area 4: Coordination

- Monitor and review the implementation of the Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils.
- Coordinated monitoring and enforcement of asbestos removal and disposal work
- Strengthen cross agency information sharing

Major Issues

- Loose fill asbestos
- Naturally occurring asbestos
- Legacy Sites (James Hardie etc)
- Asbestos in remote communities
- Responding to emergencies
- Illegal dumping of asbestos
- Disposal of asbestos waste



The Model Policy & Councils Role

What are the roles and responsibilities of Councils?

- Contaminated land
- Council land, building and assets
- Education and advice to public
- Emergency response
- Land use planning (incl. DAs & demolition)
- Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA)
- Regulation of activities (non-work sites)
- Responsible employer
- Waste management & regulation



The Model Policy – Contaminated Land

- Manage own contaminated land: asbestos registers and management plans
- Direct land owners & managers (eg: clean-up orders)
- Finding out and recording asbestos contamination of land (eg: section 149 certificates)
- Report to EPA when land contamination is suspected
- Investigate and regulate derelict buildings

Ombudsman Report 2017 - Councils

- *“marked improvement in asbestos-related services in council areas”*
- *“councils will continue to play a vital role”*
- *“how (are) councils are expected to carry out certain functions of the POEO Act without access to additional resources?”*
- *“Consistent council policies are needed as a priority*
- *“It is unclear if all councils who have ACM in their properties have registers and management plans”*



The Model Policy - Challenges

- **Council amalgamations:**
 - residual asbestos policy, but it only covers part of their area.
 - waiting for mergers to resolve before doing anything
- **Other Challenges:**
 - Person drafting the asbestos policy left council or change of Directors
 - Other priorities / busy
 - No one tasked to draft the asbestos policy

Qn: should there be a SEPP for asbestos?

Qn: How many councils have correct information on their complying development applications?

The Model Policy – Future Actions

- Attending forums such as the Hunter Councils forum. Thanks for the invite!
- LGNSW & Hunter Councils JO to work together on Asbestos Policy adoption in your region
- Holding forums across NSW
 - eg: Forbes in July, Wagga Wagga later this year.
- One-to-one contact with councils to record their decisions around adopting the policy
- Assist in the next SWAP

Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarships 2017

LGNSW together with the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) with the support of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA)

- Scholarships for Aboriginal Employees of NSW Councils
- Up to 10 scholarships available
- For approved conferences, training and travel expenses
- 2 tickets to the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Summit 2017 at Old Parliament House in Canberra between 26-28 November

Aboriginal Employees Asbestos Training Scholarships 2017

Key Dates:

- **Nominations close:** 8 September 2017 (midnight)
- **Judging:** 9-22 September 2017
- **Applicants notified:** 22-30 September 2017
- **Professional development undertaken:** 1 October 2017 - 30 June 2018

asbestosawareness.com.au

- Developed by the Asbestos Education Committee
- A one stop shop for any questions about asbestos
 - Factsheets
 - Checklists
 - FAQ's
- Lots of great resources to link to your websites
- Also can use 1800 asbestos hotline (1800 272 378)

LGNSW Resources – Asbestos Policy

- Policy Development and Implementation
- Case Studies
- Training
- Forums
- Guides
- Checklists

Key Initiatives	Member Services	Policy	Events & Training
Policy Principles		Home > Policy > Asbestos	
Aboriginal Affairs	+	<h2>Asbestos</h2>	
Ageing	+	SHARE	
Arts and Culture	+	<h3>The Role of Local Government</h3>	
Asbestos	-	Councils work independently and with State Government the risks of exposure to asbestos. Situations where council include:	
Model Asbestos Policy		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency response• Management of naturally occurring asbestos	
Training			
Resources and Case Studies			
Asbestos Awareness Month			

Conclusion

- LGNSW has developed an extensive range of material to assist councils
- We are available to assist in adopting or reviewing your asbestos policy
- We would also like to encourage more councils to apply for more grant funding to support asbestos initiatives in their LGA's
- Please visit <https://www.lgnsw.org.au/policy/asbestos> for more details or give me a call on 02-9242 9128

Questions?



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