

Asbestos National Strategic Plan

Phase Three
2024–30

Our key challenges

Asbestos materials have reached end of product life and are degrading, increasing the risk of exposure to asbestos fibres.

The increase in extreme weather events increases the risk of asbestos contamination and exposure.

Without significant intervention, Australia will still have around one million tonnes of asbestos in the built environment by 2060.

The general public mostly know that asbestos is dangerous, but do not have a good understanding of where asbestos can be found and how they can protect themselves.

This Asbestos National Strategic Plan (ANSP) builds on our progress and supports the safe removal of ageing asbestos materials to:

➤ prevent future generations from suffering disease

➤ prevent further contamination of our environment

➤ recognise that continued in situ management is not cost free

Principles that will guide our actions

1

Evidence-based decision making –

to deliver sustained improvement and ensure our focus is on areas of highest risk, including the most vulnerable populations

2

Efficiency –

eliminate duplication by leveraging our collective efforts

3

Transparency –

roles and responsibilities are acknowledged, and actions and outcomes are shared and publicly reported

4

Coordination –

across and within all tiers of government to ensure consistent and targeted actions

5

Partnerships –

between governments, non-government organisations and Australian communities to extend the reach and impact of our actions

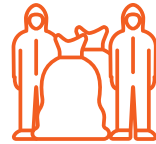
OUR AIM – Prevent exposure to asbestos fibres in order to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia

We can achieve this aim through:



PRIORITY 1

Accurate identification and consistent assessment



PRIORITY 2

Proactive management and removal



PRIORITY 3

Safe and effective transport and disposal



PRIORITY 4

International collaboration and leadership

To support these priorities we need the following enablers:



Raise asbestos risk awareness



Improve knowledge, skills and workforce capacity



Strengthen and align relevant legal frameworks



Support and enforce compliance with asbestos-related laws



Innovate, incentivise and inspire action



Conduct research and data collection to inform policy and practice

National Action Plan

ENABLERS

Raise awareness



PRIORITY 1

National awareness campaign
 –DIYers and trades
 –Indigenous Australians
 –property disclosure



PRIORITY 2

National awareness campaign for property owners/managers promoting the benefits of proactive removal



PRIORITY 3

National awareness campaign
 –illegal disposal
 –responding to a disaster event



PRIORITY 4

Support the development of awareness materials and awareness raising activities

Improve knowledge, skills and workforce capacity



Improve the quality of asbestos-related training for:
 –Workers including apprentices
 –Surveyors

Support the expansion of accreditation systems for asbestos professionals

Review and revise asbestos management and removal guidance and codes

Develop guides on:
 –Asbestos contamination in construction and demolition waste
 –Asbestos safety for waste facility operators and workers.
 –How to classify asbestos waste consistently and accurately under the NEPM waste codes.
 –Safe packaging and transportation of ACMs and onsite disposal requirements.
 –Emergency response

Develop resources for the import supply chain to keep preventing ACMs from entering Australia

Share best practice approaches for asbestos management and removal

Develop training and capacity building programs on:
 –disease detection
 –preventing asbestos exposure

Develop and implement a workforce plan for ensuring the multi-sector and multidisciplinary workforce required to eliminate asbestos-related disease in Australia.

ENABLERS

Strengthen and align relevant legal frameworks



PRIORITY 1

Mandate asbestos awareness training for certain workers

Mandate identification and disclosure of asbestos in residential properties at point of sale and lease

Investigate lowering the occupational exposure limit in line with changes agreed by the European Commission.



PRIORITY 2

Limit unlicensed removal of ACMs in relevant laws (e.g. WHS, Dangerous Goods, Public Health etc)

Require asbestos management plans to include timeframes for removal based on risk

Provide the ability for WHS regulators to issue prohibition notices in relation to ACMs installed prior to 31 December 2003 at workplaces

Facilitate reporting obligations for businesses on asbestos liabilities:

- in financial statements
- as part of environmental and social governance of buildings



PRIORITY 3

Align thresholds for asbestos waste transport licences and licensing fees to achieve national consistency.

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



PRIORITY 4

Develop models for regulatory reforms in target countries including models of import/export and workplace use bans.

Promote reforms to the Rotterdam Convention

ENABLERS



PRIORITY 1



PRIORITY 2



PRIORITY 3



PRIORITY 4

Support and enforce compliance



- Develop a national asbestos compliance and enforcement policy that includes triggers for inspections, audits and other activities
- Respond to and investigate asbestos-related complaints and incidences
- Verify compliance and take the action necessary to secure compliance
- Develop an annual campaign to promote compliance with asbestos-related laws
- Ensure effective oversight of permit and licensing regimes
- Raise awareness of penalties for non-compliance and publicise successful enforcement outcomes
- Increase knowledge sharing between regulators across the asbestos management system
- Support local government to administer devolved responsibilities

Innovate, incentivise and inspire action



Improve real time identification technologies

Improve and promote the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap

Expand analysis techniques for detecting all types of asbestos fibres

Improve incentives for the identification of ACMs in residential properties

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

Consolidate asbestos registers into a single publicly accessible platform

Australian, state, and territory governments develop a prioritised ACM removal program for publicly owned and controlled properties

Develop incentives to encourage the safe removal of ACMs from residential and commercial properties, including housing of Indigenous Australians

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

Improve incentives to encourage responsible ACM disposal.

Conduct a needs assessment for future waste capacity

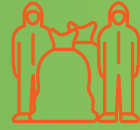
Identify and learn from international best practice and technological solutions.

Share technological solutions to identify disease and improve ACM management, removal and disposal.

ENABLERS



PRIORITY 1



PRIORITY 2



PRIORITY 3



PRIORITY 4

Conduct research and data collection



Conduct regular awareness surveys and evaluations of awareness campaigns.

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

Update asbestos waste data estimates







Identify illegal ACM disposal patterns and hotspots

Research low level exposures in the workplace and non-workplace environment including in water and soil

Share our research to help identify disease and improve ACM management, removal and disposal.

Commission research to ascertain the burden of asbestos-related disease in target countries.

Measuring performance

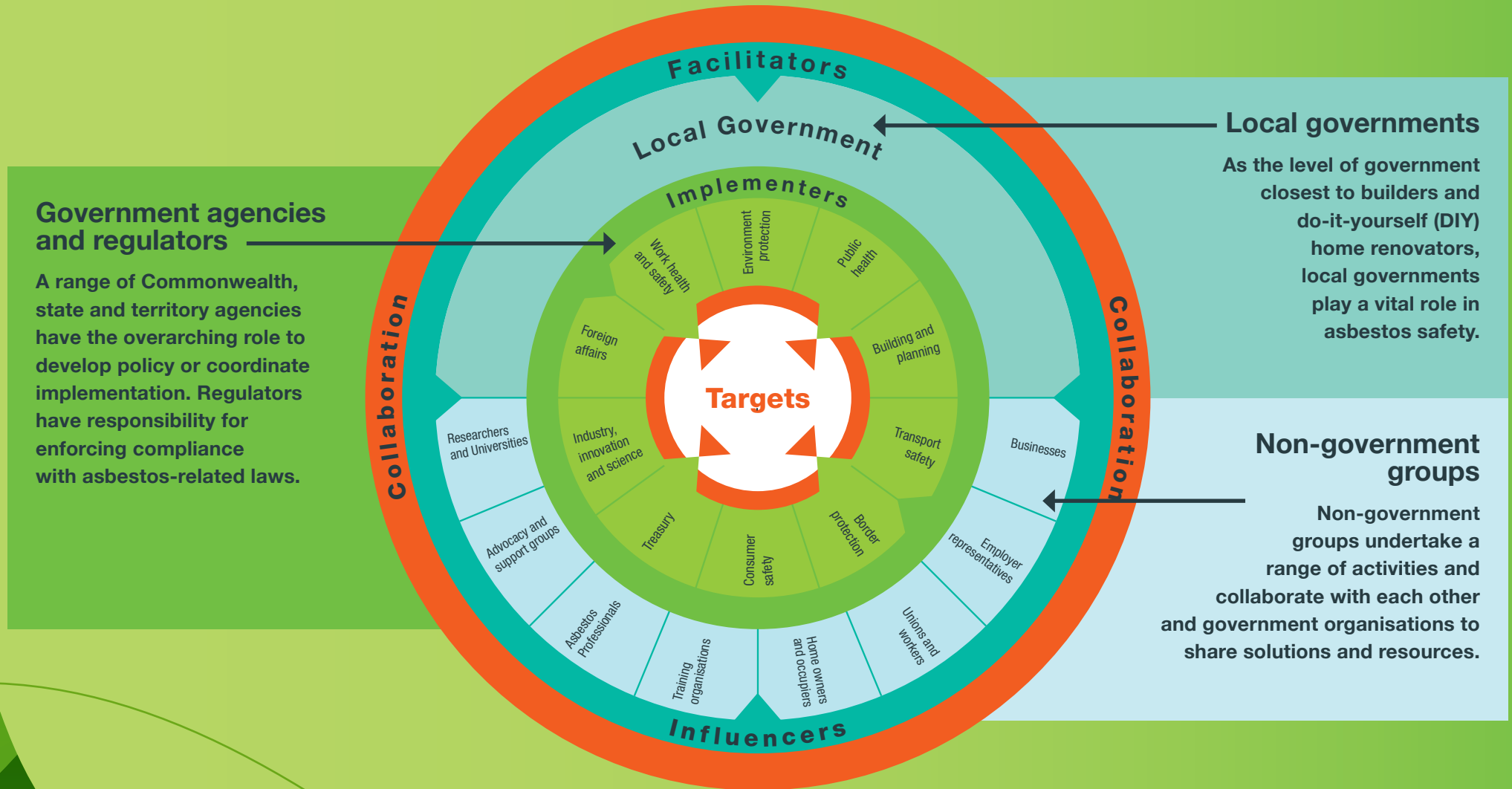
	Priority area enablers	Performance measures	Target
	Raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Level of awareness amongst target groups (survey data) – National awareness campaign performance benchmarks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Awareness levels increases each year of the plan – Campaign exceeds government performance benchmarks
	Increase knowledge, skills and workforce capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Number of workers trained – Number of professionals accredited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Workers who complete training – People who are accredited increases each year of the plan
	Strengthen and align legal frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Percentage of national actions completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 50% by 2026 – 100% by 2030
	Support and enforce compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increasing level of compliance (measured through campaigns, audits, etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 70% compliance by 2026 – 90% compliance by 2030 – Reduction in illegal dumping – Reduction in illegal imports
	Innovate, incentivise and inspire action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Percentage of national actions completed – Rate of ACM removal (stocks and flows data) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 50% by 2026 and 100% by 2030 – Increased rate of removal
	Research and data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Percentage of national actions completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 50% by 2026 – 100% by 2030

Asbestos management system

Implementers, facilitators and influencers

Asbestos management involves governments at all levels, across a range of areas, as well as a network of organisations and people that facilitate and influence action to help achieve the aim and targets of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan.

Australian, state and territory governments are responsible for implementing the plan's actions and achieving its targets, while local government and non-government groups facilitate, support and influence action. Collaboration between all participants within the system will be the key to its success.



Reporting and review

The ANSP 2024–2030 signatories will, as far as possible, align their jurisdictional and local action plans with the national priorities and strategic actions.

All signatories will monitor, evaluate and report against their action plans with ASEA and each other.

ASEA will report on progress consistent with requirements in the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency Act 2013. It will develop an annual progress report, which will be provided to all relevant Ministers and published on its website.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council will provide ongoing guidance, advice and recommendations to assist in the successful delivery of the ANSP's targets.