



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

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Communique

Meeting 1 – 31 March 2025

The Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council (the Council) held its first meeting for 2025 in-person in Canberra on 31 March. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were acknowledged, and respects paid to their Elders, past and present.

The meeting was convened in conjunction with the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (the Agency) inaugural Annual Forum. Council members were provided a summary of the Forum's purpose in articulating the role of the Agency and the role of the Asbestos Advisory Committee (AAC) and Silica Advisory Committee (SAC).

The meeting enabled the Agency to present on the progress of delivery against actions in the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024-30 (ANSP) and the Silica National Strategic Plan 2024-30 (SNSP). Council was advised that of the 17 lead actions in the ANSP identified in the Agency's Operational Plan 2024-25: that 15 have been completed or progressed and 2 have yet to commence. For the SNSP, ASSEA is a lead agency against 7 actions across 3 of the 5 priorities. Of the 7 lead actions in the SNSP identified in the Agency's Operational Plan 2024-25 3 have been completed or progressed and 4 are yet to commence.

Council members were advised that the Agency has commenced work to develop an Evaluation Framework and Indicators for the SNSP, and also the development of national targets by 30 June 2025, for which an expert advisory group has been established.

Council members were provided with an update on the establishment of the Coordination – Strategy, Policy & Specialist Advice Team, to meet the increased requirements associated with the introduction of silica into the Agency's functions. Importantly this team will strengthen governance and support progress of national actions, transparency and timely and accurate reporting.

Council members were provided with an update on the Agency's projects including the Reconciliation Action Plan, National Residential Asbestos Heatmap, the Ideal Framework for Asbestos Waste Management, silica product labelling and the recent engagement with the international community. Council members agreed to continue to support government actions for international conventions such as the Rotterdam Convention.

The next Council meeting will be held on a date to be confirmed.