



# Australian Government

## Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

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#### Communiqué

#### Meeting 2026-1 | 22 April 2026

The [Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council](#) (ASSEC) met on 22 April 2026 on the traditional Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong / Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin (Melbourne) nation bringing together Council members, agency staff, and observers.

The Council received an update on the Australian Government's ongoing engagement with the Rotterdam Convention, including ongoing challenges associated with efforts to list chrysotile asbestos under the Convention's Prior Informed Consent process. Members noted the Convention's consensus-based decision-making arrangements and the implications of these constraints.

Members discussed international developments and noted advice on complementary approaches being explored, including consideration of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Framework on Chemicals as a separate, non-binding mechanism to support international cooperation and information-sharing on chrysotile asbestos. Members also noted that further work would require consideration of feasibility, resourcing and potential impact. The Council acknowledged the importance of continued, coordinated advocacy with international partners and stakeholders.

The Agency reported on progress of its lead actions in the [Asbestos National Strategic Plan](#) (ANSP), and ANSP-related activities. This included updates on the national awareness campaigns, use of the National Asbestos Survey Guide, research on low-level exposure, support for those affected by asbestos-related disease, and ongoing work on the Asbestos 2030 Blueprint. Members highlighted the importance of the Blueprint's goals, proactive removal efforts, stakeholder engagement, and efficient use of current programs and incentives.

The Council noted progress under the [Silica National Strategic Plan](#) (SNSP), including endorsement of the SNSP national targets, development of indicators and identification of data sources to support national progress reporting using the SNSP targets, and preparation for the first national reporting period using the new SNSP targets. Members also noted work underway to improve warnings on products containing respirable crystalline silica, the development of the Silica Facts and Figures resource, and planning for international collaboration on silica-related disease prevention.

Members discussed options for the future public release of the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap and associated risks, including misinterpretation of probability data and potential



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unintended impacts. The Council provided advice on risk-based approaches, mitigation strategies, and further consultation with key stakeholders before any public release.

The Council discussed the agency's draft Strategic Communications, Media and Engagement Roadmap, aimed at strengthening coordination, prioritisation and evaluation of stakeholder engagement activities. Members noted the ambitious nature of the roadmap and supported a phased and prioritised approach to implementation.

Members noted the publication of the 2024–25 ANSP and SNSP annual reports, updates on national coordination through the Senior Implementation Forum, and work underway to review and improve national reporting systems. The Council also discussed the ongoing review of the National Asbestos Exposure Register, committee governance arrangements, and development of the 2026–27 Operational Plan.

The Council thanked all participants, presenters, and guests for their contributions and ongoing commitment. In closing the Council also recorded a vote of thanks to outgoing member Michael Young for his contribution to the Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 2026, with a revised date to be confirmed.