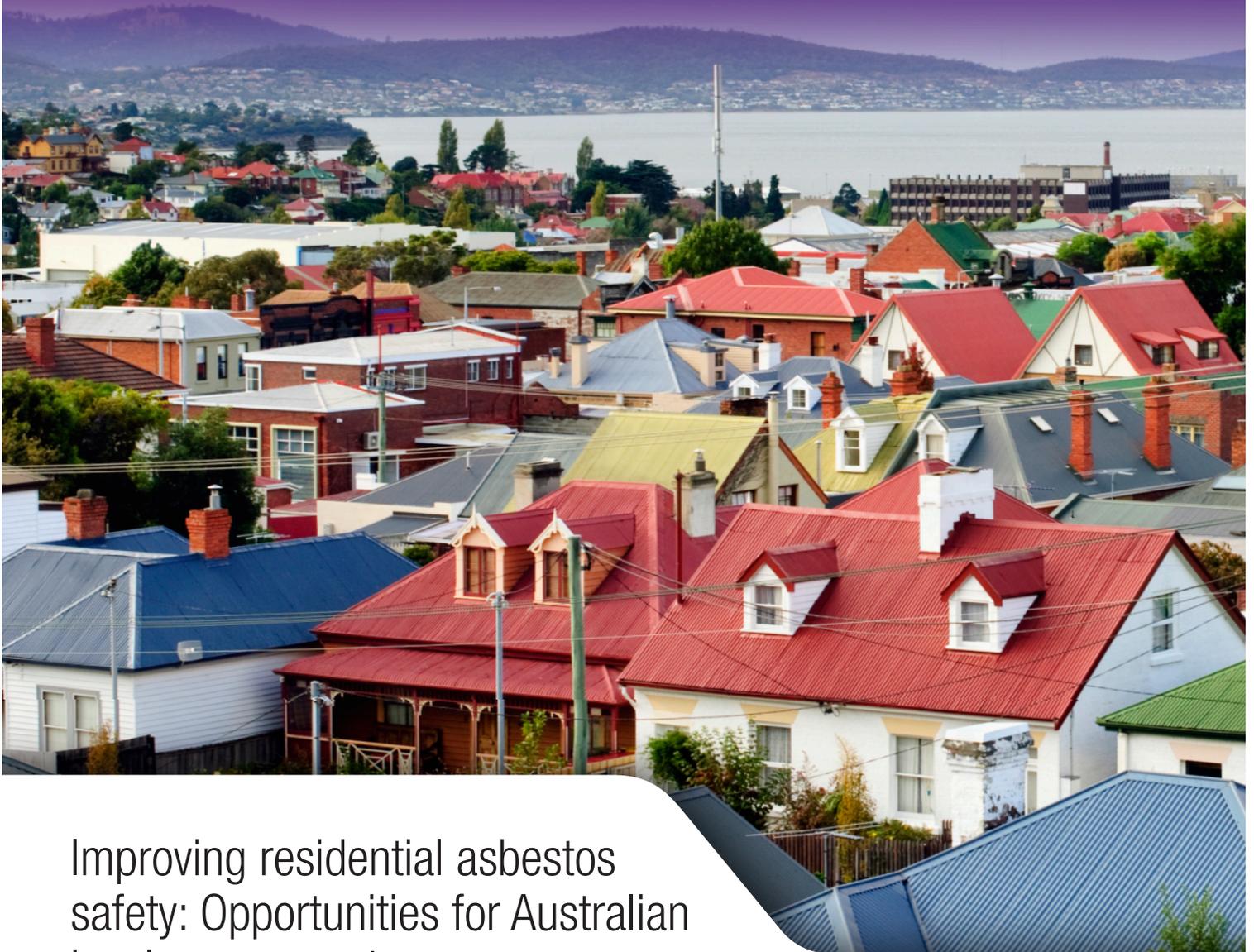




ASEA REPORTS



Improving residential asbestos safety: Opportunities for Australian local governments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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> 1. Executive Summary

Australia has one of the highest incidences of malignant mesothelioma worldwide. Australian states and territories started phasing asbestos out from the 1970s and the manufacture of asbestos products stopped in 1987. A total ban on the use and manufacture of asbestos products came into effect on 31 December 2003 but exposure continues to be a serious issue (Rosemary et al. 2015).

Local governments play a key role in educating their communities about asbestos and residential asbestos safety. As the level of government closest to builders and DIY home renovators, local governments have a responsibility to ensure as best as possible that any development activity within their local government area (LGA) is undertaken with regard to relevant federal and state legislation and local planning laws. This includes the safe handling of ACMs and extends to the provision of information and support to influence behaviour change for best practice and legal handling of ACMs by residents.

The Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) commissioned UTS: Centre for Local Government (UTS:CLG) to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of current local government asbestos safety initiatives including the use of local government asbestos management policies.

The work undertaken by UTS:CLG resulted in:

- ▶ A literature review of published academic and grey literature, as well as other literature, to:
 - ▶ provide insight into the role of local governments in asbestos safety
 - ▶ identify opportunities to improve asbestos safety in the community
- ▶ A report of findings based on consultations with local government and homeowners through surveys, interviews and focus groups
- ▶ A suite of resources which local governments can use as a basis for education campaigns

This document is a summary of the UTS:CLG report which presents the findings of research into the current role of local governments in improving residential asbestos safety and the opportunities for local governments to further address some of the challenges around asbestos safety that exist in the residential sector.

The report found that DIY renovators are a major risk group for exposure to asbestos and the 'next wave' of those at risk of developing an asbestos-related disease in Australia. Discussion forums indicated that they often have low awareness of the risks of asbestos exposure and where and how to identify asbestos in the home and how to safely handle and dispose of asbestos containing material.

This research identified challenges with the current way that local governments present information about asbestos. The review of websites confirmed that information about asbestos on local government websites is often incomplete, spread across multiple webpages that are not always linked and is difficult to locate. It was clear during focus groups with local governments that organising and maintaining this information is fragmented across local government departments with generally no single source of responsibility. Most homeowners that participated in the online discussion forums had not looked on their local government's website for information about asbestos and had very little awareness about the actions their local governments are taking to improve community asbestos safety.

> 2. Methodology

A staged approach was used to undertake this research and involved:

- ▶ A review of research previously commissioned by the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) and other academic and 'grey' literature
- ▶ A review of all 543 local government websites across Australia for content on asbestos
- ▶ A national survey of local governments about their role in managing asbestos safety in their communities (543 surveys sent with 172 responses)
- ▶ A series of interviews or focus groups with local governments (14 councils)
- ▶ Two online discussion forums with DIY home renovators (103)

> 3. Key Findings

The report provides insights into local government management of asbestos issues by looking at:

- ▶ how local governments interact with the community
- ▶ presenting ideas for local government to improve community asbestos safety
- ▶ providing examples of models that local governments could employ to influence behaviour change
- ▶ using case studies to illustrate examples of how local governments are delivering community asbestos safety initiatives

3.1 How local governments interact with the community

Local government is the tier of government closest to the community and its housing decisions and is the level of government most aware of home renovations. They are also often the first point of contact by the public for information about asbestos. The complexity and volume of information about asbestos can be challenging and the lack of a coordinated approach with a cohesive set of messages, strategies and efforts to target stakeholder engagement is seen as a barrier to initiating behaviour change about asbestos safety (ASEA & Desai 2015).

Information about asbestos on some local government websites is fragmented and found on multiple webpages devoted to different council divisions or departments. Dedicated webpages make it easier for people to find relevant information about a range of asbestos-related topics. However, dedicated webpages are not common.

Homeowners who participated in the online discussion forums stated they rarely have contact with their local government apart from receiving periodic newsletters and notices and seeing local government information in local newspapers. They generally have no recollection of receiving any information about asbestos and are unaware of actions taken by local government on asbestos safety even when the local government is delivering initiatives.

Online forum participants expressed a preference for communication by mail followed by the internet and also expressed a preference for workshops and information sessions to receive information about asbestos safety.

What councils do – council perspective

Results of the national survey indicate councils are responsible for:

- Managing asbestos in public buildings (81%)
- Managing and regulating the illegal dumping of ACMs (80%)
- Educating the community about asbestos safety (73%)
- Compliance by homeowners with asbestos regulations (66%)
- Managing asbestos removal during emergencies (59%)

Note: Only 44% assume responsibility for providing and maintaining infrastructure to collect and dispose of ACMs.

Of the 534 local governments, 108 local governments deliver one or more of the following five categories of asbestos related initiatives on their websites:

- Asbestos testing or inspection programs (52)
- Awareness events or information sessions on asbestos safety and management (39)
- Asbestos removal/disposal program or service (28)
- Provision of asbestos removal/disposal kits (16)
- Initiatives related to illegal dumping of asbestos (4)

Note: Less than half of local council websites have a page specifically dedicated to asbestos. However, there are indications a substantial number of local governments are delivering initiatives to improve residential asbestos safety, most commonly asbestos testing or inspection programs.

The most common actions taken by local governments are:

- Distributing educational material relevant to DIY renovators or home owners (63%)
- Providing a dedicated section on asbestos safety on their websites (42%)
- Organising and facilitating asbestos information events or awareness days (20%)

Note: This is likely an under-representation as only 32% of Australian councils participated in the survey and not all councils have complete information about their asbestos-related activities on their websites.

Local government websites revealed that:

- Most local governments have some information about asbestos on their website (77%)
- The most common asbestos-related information is about removing and/or disposing of asbestos (72%)
- The second most common asbestos-related information is about asbestos safety and management during DIY renovations and demolition (52%)

Note: There are no reports on the effectiveness of local government communication about asbestos; local governments themselves do not see their websites or distributed materials as effective.

Homeowners see local governments as a trusted source of information for:

- The health risks of exposure to asbestos
- How to identify asbestos
- How to safely handle ACMs

What councils do – homeowner perspective

Note: Homeowners see building certifiers and builders/tradespeople as the most trusted for these sources of information.

Enablers and barriers

Key enablers for the local government management of asbestos were identified as:

- The ability of environmental health officers to enforce regulation (72%)
- The clear delineation of roles and responsibilities between different levels of government (70%)
- The training of staff to improve internal knowledge about asbestos (67%)
- The ability of dedicated resources for asbestos management in the community (57%)

Through the national survey local governments identified a number of enablers which help in asbestos management and improve community asbestos safety. Along with the focus groups, barriers to management and improved community asbestos safety were also identified.

Although the 2010 NSW Ombudsman report identified key enablers to reduce the unsafe handling of asbestos to be education, improving convenience for disposal and creating effective disincentives for illegal disposal, the national survey of local governments suggested no clear consensus.

Results of the national survey indicate councils are responsible for:

- **Managing asbestos in public buildings (81%)**
- **Managing and regulating the illegal dumping of ACMs (80%)**
- **Educating the community about asbestos safety (73%)**
- **Compliance by homeowners with asbestos regulations (66%)**
- **Managing asbestos removal during emergencies (59%)**

The most common enablers to reduce unsafe handling identified in the national survey were:

- **Subsidising tip fees (45%)**
- **Issuing fines for non-compliant behaviour (43%)**

Note: Local governments do not appear to strongly believe that actions such as providing asbestos removal kits, subsidising the use of trained asbestos removalists or providing free of charge asbestos assessment, removal, collection and disposal campaigns/days would encourage asbestos safety by DIY renovators.

The national survey and focus groups identified the following as the main barriers to asbestos safety:

- **A lack of funding attached to asbestos related initiatives, including education (65%)**
- **Insufficient resources to enforce asbestos related regulations (53%)**
- **Lack of a clear strategy on asbestos safety and management (44%)**

Note: Some local governments identified lack of coordination between levels of government as barriers while focus groups highlighted the misconception that local governments are the principle certifying authorities for development with regard to DIY home renovations.

Themes which emerged for enablers as suggested by home owners included:

- **More asbestos awareness campaigns, in particular providing:**
 - **Easily accessible asbestos related information on their council's website**
 - **Asbestos safety awareness material in the form of fact sheets or brochures**
 - **Awareness campaigns particularly using the television or radio**
 - **More hands on information sessions about handling asbestos safely**
- **Provide asbestos handling, removal and disposal services including:**
 - **Free asbestos collection days**
 - **Providing safety and protection equipment either free of charge or at a subsidised price**
 - **Providing free or subsidised asbestos removal equipment**
 - **Providing subsidised asbestos removal services**
- **Reduce the cost to remove and dispose of asbestos**

From suggestions made by home owners who participated in the online discussion forums a number of themes emerged based on their general knowledge of asbestos management.

Note: Most participants were unaware of their local government's asbestos-related initiatives.

3.2 Ideas for local government to improve community asbestos safety

Local governments suggested a number of ways in which they thought community asbestos safety could be improved. These included both financial resources and a suite of resources for education campaigns.

For those local governments with an asbestos policy the main priority areas are:

- **Managing asbestos risks within the local government workplace and among their workers (89%)**
- **Outlining their roles and responsibilities for managing asbestos (76%)**
- **Responding to emergencies and incidents of asbestos removal and disposal (75%)**
- **Managing asbestos waste landfills and facilities (48%)**
- **Outlining their processes for assessing development applications (43%)**
- **Identifying locations with naturally occurring/weathering asbestos and/or asbestos contamination (26%)**

Note: There seems to be a misconception that state government levies are the cause of high disposal costs in some jurisdictions whereas the main contributor is high gate fees.

Ideas to better support local governments improve community safety included:

- **Additional resources to:**
 - **Drive community education**
 - **Enforce regulatory compliance**
 - **Implement asbestos safety initiatives**
- **Removal of state government waste levies**
- **Introduction of a smart phone application allowing residents to inform local governments of instances of illegal dumping**

Note: Environmental officers commented that reporting of illegal dumping is usually delayed, its extent is not always reported accurately and they have limited capacity to investigate immediately.

A clear delineation between the roles and responsibilities of local and state government was seen as important for local governments to manage community asbestos safely. Feedback from the national survey and focus groups indicated that having a state-wide asbestos policy helps clarify the local government role in managing asbestos and sets the parameters for the relationship between state and local governments.

Note: Currently only NSW has a Model Asbestos Policy available as a template for use by local governments to develop their own asbestos policies.

Note: Clear roles and responsibilities also make asbestos-related resource allocation decisions clearer to local governments.

3.3 Models to influence behaviour change for improved asbestos safety

The key objectives for local government for improving asbestos safety are:

- **Increasing awareness and education about asbestos and the dangers of exposure**
- **Improving homeowners' management and removal of asbestos**
- **Improving lawful disposal of ACMs**

Evidence suggests that current campaigns around asbestos safety and statutory controls have had limited success and can be expensive to enforce. This presents an opportunity to develop and trial non-statutory models of behaviour change around asbestos safety.

The report suggests four models which provide behaviour change frameworks which could be used by local governments to influence improved asbestos safety. These are:

- **Social Practice Theory**
- **DEFRA's 4 E's**
- **Nudge Theory**
- **Health Belief Model**

These four models suggest that local governments should implement a multi-faceted response to asbestos safety.

Homeowners said:

- **Information needs to be:**
 - **Comprehensive**
 - **Updated**
 - **Organised**
- **such that it is easy for residents to find**
- **Workshops and information sessions could be used to promote asbestos safety**
- **Targeted information could be provided as part of regular mail outs such as rates notices and include information like:**
 - **How to dispose of asbestos**
 - **How to report illegal dumping**
 - **How to report suspected unsafe handling of asbestos**

Homeowners provided additional insights through the survey and online discussion forums about how local governments can effectively deliver campaigns and messages about asbestos safety.

Note: Partnering with hardware stores to deliver workshops was suggested as these are places the DIY home renovators are likely to visit.

4. Limitations

Although the findings of the results of the surveys, focus groups and discussion forums are considered to provide important insights into the effectiveness of current local government asbestos safety initiatives, none can be considered to be a truly representative sample for the particular survey group.

The limitations for each phase are summarised below:

- National survey of local governments – not representative of state, territory or remoteness as it was voluntary (172 of 543 local governments participated) and there was an over-representation from NSW, Victorian and metropolitan local governments and an under-representation of rural and remote local governments
- Local government focus groups - were identified from:
 - expressions of interest to a request for follow up to the national survey
 - evidence from the survey review and national survey responses that initiatives to improve asbestos safety beyond distributing educational material were being delivered
 - evidence of a high proportion of housing stock with ACMs in the LGA
 - evidence the LGA had high amounts of naturally occurring asbestos
- Online surveys and discussion groups with homeowners – were volunteers to participate, therefore not random samples and likely to have hidden characteristics to predispose them to participation

5. Conclusion

The research findings show that local governments are a trusted source of information about asbestos and asbestos safety. However, information provided by local government is often fragmented which contributes to low awareness about asbestos safety among members of the community.

Although there is a perception that local governments are aware of DIY activities, this is not the case unless the local government is involved in the development approval process. In most instances this is not the case as minor home renovations are exempt from the process.

In many instances local governments play a role in improving community and residential safety through distributing educational materials and implementing initiatives. However, to implement a comprehensive community asbestos safety campaign additional resources are needed. For some local governments to commit additional resources to asbestos safety, a business case outlining the economic or social benefits of various actions could be required.

Along with mail outs, the internet and customer service centres, workshops and information sessions are seen by homeowners as a preferred method for receiving information. Most local government focus groups commented that a suite of resources including content for websites, flyers for distribution and content for local newspapers and newsletters would be useful for community education campaigns and would help them overcome some of their capacity constraints and ensure that messages they are communicating are up-to-date.

Currently there is no clear evidence of the effectiveness of local government actions because actions have either not been evaluated or the results of evaluations have not been made publicly available. Indications from the focus groups and local government staff are that local government actions are not highly effective, although

there is a perception that providing asbestos handling kits and asbestos removal services are more effective than other actions. Behavioural models of change suggest a multi-faceted approach which is targeted, personalised and points out the benefits of initiatives would provide an evidence-based framework for local governments to improve asbestos safety.

The findings of this report show that there is a role for local governments to play in improving commercial and residential asbestos safety. Local governments view their most important role in asbestos management as managing asbestos in their own facilities and supporting the legal disposal of ACMs. However, research shows that home owners and others also see local governments as a key stakeholder in raising awareness about asbestos safety. There are opportunities for local government to improve asbestos safety by having comprehensive information about asbestos in a dedicated location on their websites, by having an asbestos policy which clearly delineates roles and responsibilities and by running community education campaigns about the safe handling, removal and disposal of asbestos. The findings also show that local governments would benefit from support establishing systems and processes to capture the volume and costs of illegally dumped asbestos.

This and other research confirm that local governments have the capacity to raise awareness in the community about asbestos safety, particularly in the areas of the health risks of asbestos exposure, identifying asbestos and safely handling ACMs. The case studies presented in the appendix to this report summary show how some local councils have used available opportunities to improve asbestos safety in the residential sector.

APPENDIX – Case studies

Despite resource limitations of local governments to influence asbestos safety, some local governments are already playing a leading role in their communities. The interviews and focus groups identified examples where local governments are delivering proactive asbestos safety initiatives including education and other practical support. These are described below. However, while these provide interesting examples, the delivering local governments were open about the fact that they are unsure about the effectiveness of the initiatives as they undertake no monitoring or evaluation activities.

Cumberland Council, NSW

Cumberland Council in Western Sydney (formed from the amalgamation of Auburn City, Holroyd City and part of Parramatta City councils) is recognised as one of the leading local governments in Australia for its Asbestos Awareness and Education Program.

The LGA is part of what is known as the 'fibro belt' containing a large number of houses constructed from fibro sheeting and is an area of high DIY renovation activity. The LGA is highly diverse and has numerous CALD groups amongst which the level of understanding about asbestos is unclear. This diversity makes it difficult to reach all segments of the community with public education campaigns.

Illegal dumping is a significant challenge with the nearest waste facility that accepts ACMs approximately 45 minutes away with a minimum charge of \$188.50. This is considered a barrier for many of the LGA's residents.

In 2014 and 2015 the former Holroyd and Parramatta Councils participated in the Western Sydney Residential Asbestos Disposal Scheme (WSRADS) which included a series of programs run as a partnership between Local Government NSW and the NSW EPA. The programs included:

- Free removal of small amounts of non-friable asbestos (for example small amounts of asbestos sheeting) from residential homes by licensed asbestos removal contractors
- A council-issued rebate for residents correctly disposing of asbestos to a landfill

Both programs worked towards the key objective of reducing the illegal and unsafe disposal of asbestos in Western Sydney by educating residents and making correct disposal easier and more affordable. Participating local governments ran advertisements, sponsored editorial, news stories and letter box drops to promote the WSRADS programs as well as including information on council websites.

Holroyd, and now Cumberland, Council capitalised on this opportunity and has sustained its campaigning about asbestos safety in the community. The council continues to offer free collection of less than 10m² of non-friable household asbestos and runs free asbestos awareness workshops for residents at least monthly. The workshops run for two hours and attendees receive a free asbestos removal kit valued at \$100.

The Council is also trialling a free asbestos inspection program funded by a NSW EPA grant. The inspection involves an occupational hygienist conducting a 45 minute visual inspection of residential properties.

In 2016:

- 57 residents used the free domestic asbestos collection service
- 28 residents attended workshops about asbestos in the home
- 7 homeowners accessed the free asbestos inspection service

In addition to the above, the Council developed a separate asbestos awareness website (www.asbestosanswers.com.au) which contains information for homeowners about:

- The health risks of asbestos and when to worry
- How to handle asbestos safely
- How to legally dispose of ACMs
- Managing asbestos *in situ*
- Where to find a licenced asbestos removalist, occupational hygienist and a lab to test samples for asbestos
- When local government approval is required for home renovation activity
- Illegal dumping including where to report it and the fines
- When and how to report neighbourhood activity around asbestos that is causing concern

The website also contains an interactive Q&A game to test people's knowledge about asbestos safety. The council consciously did not include any local government branding on the website to make it useful and feel relevant for residents outside their LGA.

Ballina Shire Council, NSW

Ballina Shire is a regional LGA located on the North Coast of NSW. The Council recently adopted an asbestos policy based on the NSW Model Asbestos Policy to ensure consistency of awareness and asbestos management processes across all of Council. The LGA has a large amount of housing stock containing asbestos and staff consulted believe there is a large amount of DIY home renovation activity that is not picked up in the development application process.

The Council participated in the Household Asbestos Disposal Scheme (HADS)¹ trialled by the NSW EPA and in 2016-17 was awarded two grants totalling \$125,000 under the EPA's Better Waste and Recycling Fund.² The grant funding was to combat the disposal of ACMs in kerbside bins and to install infrastructure to deter illegal dumping at known hotspots. The Council is using the funds to increase community awareness of asbestos and proper disposal methods by targeting DIY home renovators with educational material such as flyers and a media campaign. Environmental Health staff are also developing a factsheet to distribute on the website, in rates notices and as part of development applications.

The Council also purchased a hand held asbestos detector gun for use at illegal dumping sites to ensure that its workers are aware of the risks and exercise appropriate handling practices if asbestos is detected.

The Council also sells subsidised asbestos removal kits for \$30 at the customer service centre in Ballina, which includes a voucher for free disposal at the nearest waste facility that currently accepts ACMs (Lismore).

¹ <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/house-asbestos-dispose.htm>

² <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/better-waste-recycle.htm>

Wollongong City Council, NSW

Using grant funding awarded under the NSW EPA's Better Waste and Recycling Fund, Wollongong City Council has implemented an asbestos awareness campaign for the last two years to minimise the impact of illegal dumping. The Council coordinated a three-month campaign to coincide with the 2016 Asbestos Awareness Month. The campaign included:

- Displaying two prominent outdoor banners
- Advertising on local radio (116 plays of a community service announcement), online and in the local newspaper
- Distributing 3000 Asbestos Awareness cobranded Wollongong City Council flyers to all hardware stores, libraries, and community centres in their LGA
- Promotional displays in the main customer service centres and shopping centre
- Media stories/interviews on local radio and in newspapers
- Asbestos safety messaging in Council newsletters
- Social media messaging
- Sponsoring two Blue Lamington Drives to raise funding for asbestos research: One for the general public at the local Bunnings and one for Council staff to emphasise the importance of asbestos awareness in the workplace and the home

This campaign saw Wollongong City Council awarded a Betty Award in 2016 for the Most Improved Council Asbestos Awareness Month Campaigner (National).

The Council also promotes any WorkCover events being held in the area to DIY home renovators. The "Are you Playing Renovation Roulette" leaflet is also provided with any development application approval notice that involves home modifications or demolition.

The Council conducts asbestos awareness training for all staff and contractors, and makes asbestos disposal kits available for staff at all Council depots.

The effectiveness of Wollongong City Council's asbestos awareness campaign has not been formally evaluated. However, it was noticeable in the online discussion forums with home owners that Wollongong City residents were more aware of their local government's asbestos campaign than residents of other LGAs.

City of South Perth, Western Australia

The City of South Perth is an inner city LGA in metropolitan Perth. The LGA does not have a waste facility that accepts ACMs, with residents needing to travel a minimum of 45 minutes to the nearest licenced facility.

For over 10 years the Council has held a free asbestos drop off day at its waste transfer station. On the last Saturday in September, Council sets up a bulk waste bin for City of South Perth residents to dispose of up to 10m² of ACMs. The day is promoted throughout the year and on the annual waste calendar, and is attended by Environmental Health staff to check that loads are properly wrapped and do not exceed the accepted quantities. At the last drop off day, 7.4 tonnes of ACMs were collected from approximately 100 residents. The cost of holding the day including advertising, staff overtime and hiring a contractor to transport and dispose the ACMs is estimated at approximately \$3,000.

The initiative was initially established to counteract the dumping of ACMs in suburban streets and laneways. At first the day was held twice a year but due to decreasing demand is now only held once. Council's Environmental Health Coordinator commented that the overall volume of ACMs collected once per year roughly equates to what used to be collected across both days, suggesting that residents are planning asbestos removal activities to coincide with the drop-off day. While the Council has not formally evaluated the initiative there has anecdotally been a decline in illegal dumping in the LGA suggesting that the initiative has been effective.

Latrobe Council, Tasmania

Latrobe Council is a small rural and remote local government in Northern Tasmania near Devonport. In 2016 the council won a Betty Award for its wide participation during Asbestos Awareness Month. The Manager of

Environmental Health developed a dolls house that outlined all of the locations asbestos can be found in homes. The house was used as a basis for advertising about asbestos safety in local media and was displayed in the customer service centre for several months. The Council held a Blue Lamington Morning Tea as an information session for staff and to raise funds for the Asbestos Diseases Research Institute (ADRI).

The Council is currently developing asbestos testing kits and plans to make 30 available to residents for free. The kits will include a discount voucher to have the sample tested at a laboratory.

Other local governments identified that are delivering community asbestos safety initiatives

The review of local government websites identified other local governments that are delivering initiatives which boost their community's capacity to safely handle asbestos. These local governments were not engaged in the focus groups as part of this research so only brief details about their initiatives were identified.

Tweed Shire Council, NSW

Tweed Shire Council in Northern NSW has reduced its asbestos disposal fees by more than half (from \$183.50 per tonne to \$85 per tonne). In its public awareness campaigns, the Council has highlighted how reducing disposal costs has had a direct impact on the amount of asbestos illegally dumped. The Council also occasionally offers its residents a chance to win \$150 hardware vouchers by providing their feedback on the region's asbestos awareness campaign.

Moreton Bay Council, Queensland

This Council in the Northern suburbs of Brisbane allows residents to dispose asbestos waste of up to 500kgs for free per visit in its waste facility. In total, residents can dispose up to two tonnes of asbestos waste per year for free.

Clarence Valley Council, NSW

Clarence Valley Council in Northern NSW participated in NSW EPA Household Asbestos Disposal Scheme and also partnered with North-East Waste to provide free asbestos sampling kits for householders. If asbestos is detected during testing, the Council provides residents subsidised asbestos removal kits for \$20 each.

Latrobe City Council, Victoria

Latrobe City Council was the first in Australia to introduce the 'Asbestos in the Home Removal Kit' for its community. The Council provides the kit for a subsidised price of \$50 with a free asbestos awareness and information session included.

Other local governments delivering asbestos safety initiatives

Several local governments were identified that provide asbestos removal kits and in some cases at subsidised prices. These are:

- **Byron Shire Council (NSW)** – subsidised for residents at \$25.
- **Richmond Valley Council (NSW)** – at cost for \$110 but include a discount voucher for the disposal of domestic asbestos at its Nammoona Waste Transfer Station.
- **West Wimmera Council (WA)** – free for residents.
- **Benalla Rural City Council (VIC)** – free for residents.

Several local governments were also identified that provide asbestos removal or disposal services for residents. These are:

- **City of Parramatta (NSW)** – offers a free removal service once per quarter for household asbestos of up to 10m². In 2017/18 Council removed 7.7 tonne from 114 properties a total contractor and tipping cost of \$25,958 (including GST).
- **Townsville Council (QLD)** – provides specialised waste disposal services including asbestos removal and disposal for its residents.
- **Belmont Council (WA)** – organises a free asbestos disposal day each year.

North Sydney Council (NSW) and **Mosman Council (NSW)** were also identified as regularly conducting free asbestos awareness sessions for their residents.

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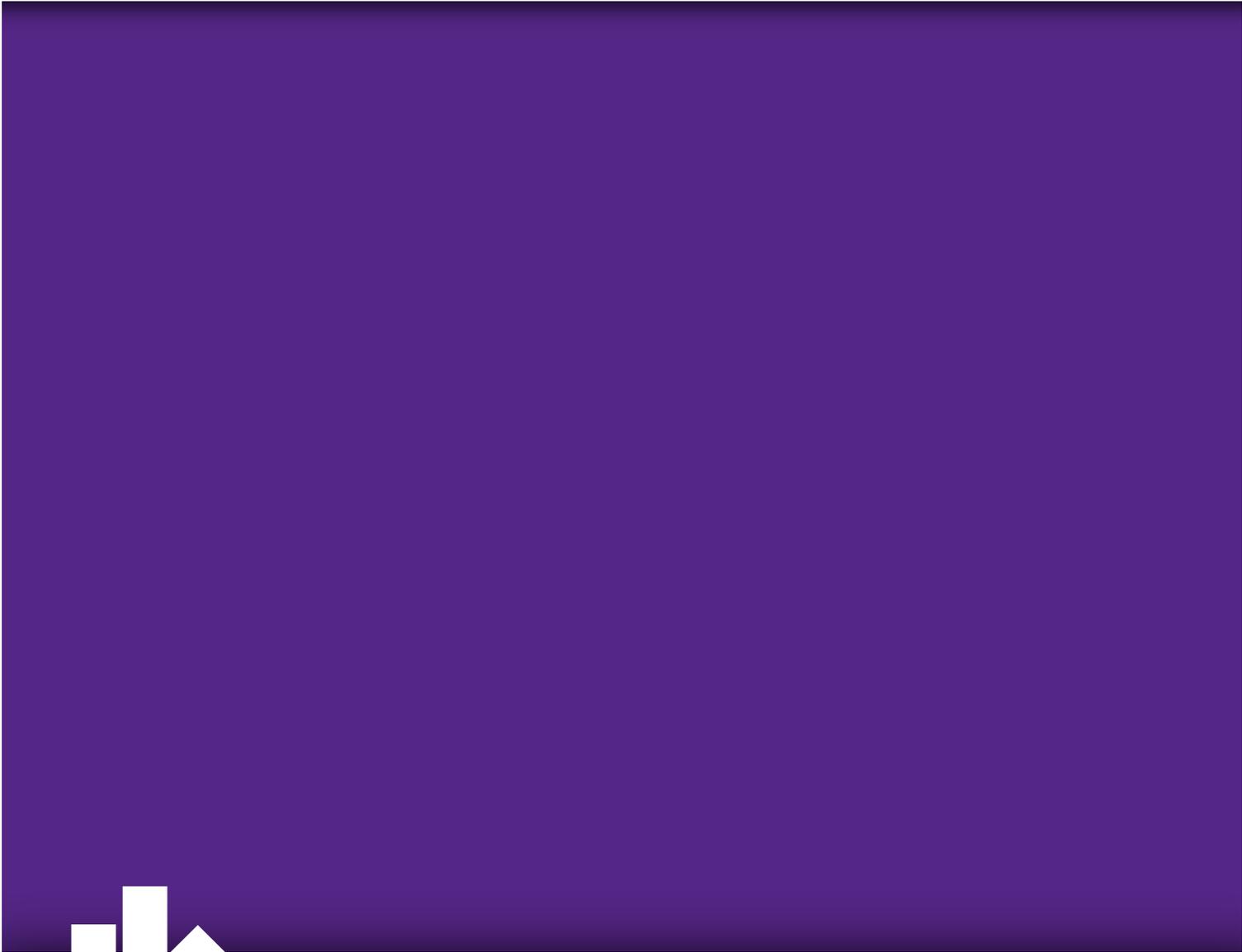
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