

2022–23 Asbestos waste in Australia: DATA



Australian Government
Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

Table 1: Summary of asbestos waste volumes by reported type and by jurisdiction in 2022-23 (tonnes)

ASBESTOS TYPE	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Wrapped ACM only	9,624	251,581			25,258	149	38,829	14,151
Wrapped ACM + waste contaminated with friable ACM				194,191				
Wrapped ACM + waste contaminated with <i>only</i> asbestos							64,100*	
Wrapped ACM + waste contaminated with asbestos			59,720					
Soil contaminated with asbestos		587,854					32,288	

* This figure is not included in other totals as there was a partial 'double-count' of the Vic data.

Table 2: Best estimate of asbestos waste volumes (*i.e. data that includes wrapped ACM*; tonnes)

Year	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
2022-23	9,624	251,581	59,720	194,191	25,258	149	38,829	14,151	593,503

Table 3: Summary of all reported asbestos waste in the last decade (tonnes per annum).

*This includes wrapped ACM, soil and rubble contaminated with ACM; except **blue cells**, which are wrapped ACM only.*

Year	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
2012-13	5,954	531,000	1,801	113,345	20,129	14,931	65,656	26,045	778,861
2013-14	6,680	420,000	1,810	120,728	15,991	14,972	74,046	29,237	683,464
2014-15	5,856	306,465	2,000	150,302	14,517	15,015	80,078	38,492	612,725
2015-16	68,405	508,156	5,982	145,102	9,224	15,085	101,636	38,724	892,314
2016-17	208,474	682,444	5,913	154,608	11,770	15,228	118,626	39,000	1,236,063
2017-18	94,293	1,158,050	5,225	149,873	17,302	5,059	154,520	31,886	1,616,207
2018-19	48,176	1,318,779	7,118	152,552	42,987	3,259	102,842	24,772	1,700,485
2019-20	17,741	899,444	17,435	154,918	35,694	4,094	178,670	24,165	1,332,162
2020-21	19,559	841,900	38,483	326,276	21,829	3,844	136,925	17,657	1,406,474
2021-22	13,622	601,933	47,398	188,466	45,455	4,244	243,418	20,679	1,165,215
2022-23	9,624	839,435	59,720	194,191	25,258	149	71,117	14,151	1,213,646

Key to data sources for Table 3:

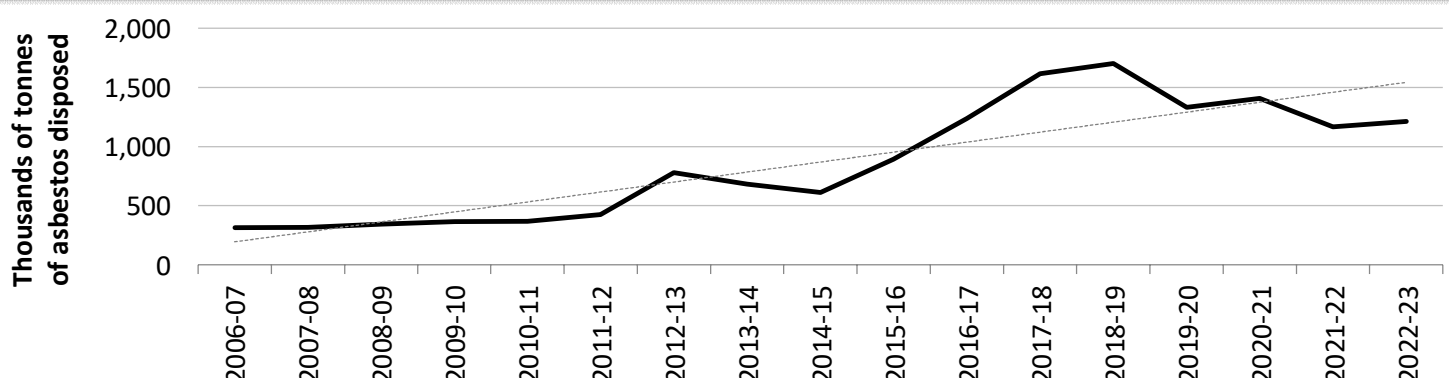
Black numbers – Provided in collated form by the jurisdiction

Purple numbers – Collated from transport certificates

Red numbers – Estimate based on population change x previous data

Orange numbers – Estimate only (extrapolated or interpolated)

Figure 1: Long-term rising trend of all reported asbestos waste over the entire reporting period (2006-07 to 2022-23)



Source: Blue Environment for ASEA 2023

Improved national picture

This year we are moving closer to an improved national picture of the quantity of asbestos waste.

This is because most major states can now report quantities of wrapped asbestos-containing material (ACM, such as asbestos cement sheets) separately from waste contaminated with ACM (such as soil and rubble). Most asbestos waste comes from renovation and urban development and goes to landfill.



Bairnsdale Landfill, East Gippsland (Vic)

Asbestos waste recording in Australia

States and territories consider and report different types of waste as 'asbestos' (NEPM code N220):

- The ACT, SA, Tasmania, Vic and WA include only ACM which is generally delivered to landfills as a package wrapped in plastic.
- Qld reports ACM and waste (soil or rubble) contaminated with friable ACM.
- NSW and the NT report ACM and waste contaminated with ACM. However, NSW is able to separately report ACM only.



Wrapped asbestos sheeting (Tweed Shire Council)



Asbestos-contaminated soil and rubble (Paul Jeffers – The Age)

Data Limitations



Hazardous waste tracking systems are maintained primarily to enable checking of transport certificates and operators in the event of suspected illicit activity. Many thousands of records are collected each year, some of which need to be transcribed from paper-based forms. They are infrequently collated, and gaps or errors may not always be recognised or followed up.