



# Australian Government

## Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

### Asbestos Advisory Committee

#### Communique

#### Meeting 1 – 1 April 2025

The Asbestos Advisory Committee (AAC; the Committee) held its inaugural meeting on Ngunnawal and Ngambri lands on 1 April 2025.

After the Chair's welcome, members and ASSEA's CEO, Jodie Deakes, reflected on the previous days' Council and the ASSEA Committee Forum, and recognised the active participation and diversity of attendees.

Members discussed how their skills and networks could best assist the priority actions of the NSPs. Opportunities to build strategic engagement were discussed, such as engaging with insurers and key groups to the benefit of both public and commercial interests. AAC members encouraged strengthening membership from the environmental protection sector.

Members discussed the Terms of Reference (ToR), and in light of the insight gained from the Forum. . Members highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability against the NSPs, including communicating the work of the Committee to the public. It was agreed that the AAC would provide meeting Communiques.

Members discussed the draft Committee Advisory Plan which aligned to the ASSEA 2025-26 priorities. Members highlighted the complexity of sourcing funding to realise the vision of the Asbestos NSP, especially as the issue involves multiple sectors, persists over many decades, and is compounded by the significant lag in disease presentation. Members encouraged the Agency to seek for more funding to progress work under the Asbestos NSP.

The Chair noted the recently published *Options for government supported incentives for proactive asbestos removal* report on the Agency's website and raised several opportunities for the National Residential Asbestos Heatmap (Heatmap) data to streamline and target interventions in areas with higher likelihood of asbestos. AAC members also discussed and emphasised the usefulness of the *Guides for communicating about asbestos risk*.

The Agency presented a comprehensive issues paper on an Ideal Waste Framework for Asbestos, highlighting current barriers to safe removal and disposal. Members discussed issues such as:

- end-to-end tracing of asbestos waste
- the need to exclude from the circular economy
- data sharing
- incentives to encourage safe and lawful disposal, and
- the large divide in waste generation between general public and business.

Actions arising from the meeting include:

- ASSEA to consider and amend the ToR to ensure that communications from the Committee are broadly disseminated and reflective of the ANSP international aims



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- The Committee to provide feedback to ASSEA by 30 April 2025 on the draft Issues Paper on the Ideal Asbestos Waste Framework, and other agenda items presented at this meeting.

The next meeting will be held virtually on 11 September 2025.