



# Australian Government

## Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

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#### Communique

#### Meeting 2025-2 – 30 July 2025

The [Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council](#) (the Council) held its seventh meeting on 30 July 2025 on the traditional Country of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri country (Canberra). Council members recorded a vote of thanks to outgoing member Dr Robert Walters, for his significant contribution to the Council over the last decade including the generosity with which he has shared his knowledge and advised on asbestos-related matters.

Council members received an update on the delivery of actions in the [Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024-30](#) (ANSP). Members noted that of the 17 lead action items in the ANSP identified in the Agency's Operational Plan 2024-25, that 14 have been completed and 3 have commenced. In relation to the [Silica National Strategic Plan 2024-30](#) (SNSP), 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.

It was noted that action items on which ASSEA leads implementation will continue from the [2024-25 Operational Plan](#) to the [2025-26 Operational Plan](#).

Members noted an Evaluation Framework and Indicators for the SNSP has been completed including the development of national targets. Following extensive consultation, the proposed national targets were provided to state and territory ministers via the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations in July 2025 for approval. The Agency will work with jurisdictional partners to develop their systems to support collection of data against relevant indicators.

The Agency updated members on recent international activities, including collaborative work with Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA on asbestos bans in South-East Asia and outcomes of the Rotterdam Convention Conference of Parties. Council again reiterated their concern in relation to the failure to list chrysotile asbestos and supports the Australian Government in continuing to take action. Council members reviewed and gave feedback on a draft International Leadership and Collaboration Strategy for implementing 2025-26 priorities in ANSP and SNSP. Once finalised, the strategy will be published on the website. In addition, the Council noted that the Agency will be travelling to South-East Asia in August-September 2025 to deliver training in Cambodia on asbestos-related diseases in partnership with the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute and will also meet with stakeholders in Lao and Malaysia.

Council members acknowledged the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer's final report on [Management of asbestos in recovered fines and recovered materials for beneficial reuse in NSW](#). The Agency will work with the [NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee](#) to address the report's recommendations and seek collaboration opportunities.

Council members considered a number of other projects underway and reports from the [Asbestos Advisory Committee](#), [Silica Advisory Committee](#) and the inaugural meeting of the Asbestos and Silica Senior Implementation Forum.

The next Council meeting will be held on 19 November 2025.