

COMMUNIQUE

The inaugural meeting of the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) was held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 as part of Asbestos Awareness Week.

Appointment of an independent Chair

I am very honoured to have been appointed as the independent Chair of the NACC. The NACC's purpose is to drive a strategic and coordinated approach to asbestos management in NSW to protect human health and the environment. This includes:

- (a) Developing a whole-of-government strategy on asbestos management in NSW.
- (b) Monitoring the implementation of the strategy and trouble-shooting any risks, delay or blockages to progress.
- (c) Engaging with the best evidence of the day to drive continuous improvement to asbestos management.
- (d) Championing the importance of asbestos safety in NSW.

Formation of the Group

Members welcomed the formation of the group and acknowledged the importance of taking a coordinated approach to asbestos management in NSW. At this meeting members endorsed their [Terms of Reference](#). The Terms of Reference set out the role, functions and membership of the Committee.

Guest speaker

Investigative journalist and author Matt Peacock delivered the keynote address at this inaugural meeting to share his experiences engaging with those impacted by asbestos related diseases and emphasised the important work of this group. Matt's presentation brought home the challenging legacy issues our community must deal with.

Our Story in NSW

As part of their induction to this group, members were briefed about the context that has led to the creation of the NACC, including previous reports into asbestos management by the NSW Ombudsman who participates as an observer on the NACC together with the Commonwealth Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency.

The NACC is proudly supported by the NSW Environment Protection Authority



Our Work as a NACC

Members were also briefed about the work that been undertaken over the past 18 months by the NACC Working Group, which will continue to manage cross-agency projects that address asbestos related issues. Key projects that the Working Group have managed to date include asbestos clean-up and remediation in Aboriginal communities, the delivery of a new asbestos safety website at asbestos.nsw.gov.au and recent work in Moree to support local councils to address burnt and derelict houses.

The establishment of the NACC will provide a forum to ensure these initiatives are coordinated and supported at the most senior levels of government, and that effort and resources are dedicated to those things that can make the greatest impact in eliminating exposure to asbestos within our community.

As the independent Chair of NACC, I will publish a Communique following each of our meetings so that interested stakeholders can stay abreast of the work of the Committee.



Carolyn Walsh
Independent Chair

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