

Communique

The ninth meeting of the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) was held on 23 November 2022.

This marks two years since the NACC began.

Signalling longer term priorities in *Next Horizon*

Throughout 2022 the NACC has been considering the issues that should be the longer-term focus for NSW to reduce exposure to airborne asbestos. The NACC has set out its proposed issues, and the thinking behind them in a new document – *Asbestos in NSW : Next Horizon*. The document also reports back against actions promised in 2021. It will be published shortly and will frame future, more detailed, discussions with Government about priorities and potential funding.

Closing out actions under *Setting the Direction*

The NACC published its first strategic agenda in November 2021 – *Asbestos in NSW: Setting the Direction 2021 and 2022*. It identified 5 immediate priority issues with actions against each one.

Most of the actions have now been completed by agencies within the NACC, with others carried forward for continued delivery. All of the broader issues (which are generally longer term in nature) have been carried forward into the *Next Horizon*.

This success could only have been delivered with the willingness of all agencies to problem solve, to participate and to prioritise this work. This is a great example of cross-government delivery.

Closing out action against the NSW Ombudsman's Report

This meeting also marked the close-out of recommendations made by the NSW Ombudsman in the report issued in 2017 - *Asbestos: How NSW government agencies deal with the problem*. The Ombudsman's Report has been a key driver of the NACC's focus, as well as the establishment of the NACC itself. The Report's recommendations have also underpinned the long-term thinking in the *Next Horizon*.

The NACC looks forward now to discussing its close-out report to the NSW Ombudsman, who has been overseeing asbestos work in NSW since his first report on the issue in 2010.

Carolyn Walsh
Independent Chair

23 November 2022



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