

Communiqué

So far, 2024 has been a busy time for asbestos in NSW. The asbestos in mulch issue has highlighted just how important it is to manage, remove, and dispose of asbestos waste correctly.

Asbestos is ubiquitous in the environment. With Australia being one of the highest consumers of asbestos in the world it's no surprise to hear that there is still approximately 6.4 million tonnes of asbestos materials remaining in our built environment.

Bringing the Asbestos Taskforce and the NACC together

On 14 March 2024 we held the 14th meeting of the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC). I always say how proud I am to have the privilege of chairing the NACC. For a couple of months, I have also had the honour of being the Independent Chair of the Asbestos Taskforce, which was set up to quickly deal with asbestos finds in mulch.

Chairing both the NACC and Taskforce has been incredibly rewarding. I have been so impressed by the way staff from right across both state and local government have worked together to quickly trace, test and remove asbestos. Many agencies have been involved including Education, Environment Protection Authority, Fire and Rescue, Health, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Office of Local Government, Premier's Department, Public Works, SafeWork, The Cabinet Office, Transport for NSW, and more. These are all agencies working tirelessly to keep the people of NSW safe.

At the March NACC meeting, members of the NACC and Asbestos Taskforce came together to connect the learnings from the mulch response into our long-term asbestos work. Many representatives sit on both the NACC and Taskforce, making it valuable to hear their ideas and thinking.

Asbestos course free for workers until June 13

After the November 2023 NACC meeting, I told you about a fantastic new online asbestos safety and awareness course for workers. The course is normally \$175 but is being offered for free until 13 June 2024. Check it out at

<https://store.training.tafensw.edu.au/product/asbestos-awareness-and-safety/>



Carolyn Walsh (**Independent Chair**)

14 March 2024

The NACC is proudly supported by the NSW Environment Protection Authority

