

NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan 2024–30

Towards the elimination of asbestos-related
disease in NSW

July 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee acknowledges the traditional custodians as the first protectors of the land, water, sea and sky on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise the ongoing connection of traditional custodians to their land, their waters and surrounding communities and acknowledge their ancient history here on this land.

We also acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of the diverse workforce of NSW State and local governments and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and cultures.

We specifically acknowledge the damage done to Country and communities through the mining, manufacture and use of asbestos, and recognise the need to work with Aboriginal communities in Healing Country.

NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan 2024–30

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Purpose

Asbestos continues to exist in NSW

Asbestos is a present and real danger in NSW with significant volumes of asbestos-containing material still in our homes, buildings and infrastructure. Managing the human and environmental risks posed by exposure to asbestos fibres is complex and expensive. Effective actions require strong collaboration and commitment at all levels of government.

Many of the asbestos-containing materials in our buildings are coming to their end of life. Impacts of climate change and more frequent strong weather events makes addressing these risks more important than ever. Damaged or decaying materials and the impacts of bush fires or extreme weather events can result in asbestos fibres becoming more easily airborne, which poses greater health risks.

Public interest in asbestos is still high and rates of diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases continue with a 'third wave' of DIY and handypeople reporting exposure. Asbestos doesn't have to be deadly. Removing ageing asbestos from our environment and increasing public awareness about how to safely manage existing asbestos-containing materials will significantly reduce health risks.

The NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee and strategies to address asbestos

NSW is fortunate to have the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC), a multi-agency body that drives a strategic and coordinated approach to asbestos management in NSW. The NACC is made up of government agencies and organisations responsible for managing different aspects of asbestos in NSW – from our environment to our infrastructure and our health.

Since it was formed in 2020, the NACC has made real progress on some of the asbestos challenges faced by NSW. This includes developing and improving accessibility to asbestos awareness training, developing asbestos awareness campaigns, continuing clean-up and make-safe work in discrete Aboriginal communities, securing funds to assess the volume of asbestos-containing materials in all NSW discrete Aboriginal communities, and the provision of disaster support to increase awareness of asbestos management.

At the end of 2022, the NACC released *Asbestos in NSW: Next Horizon*, which outlines NSW's strategic priorities related to asbestos. Next Horizon built on the first strategic priorities document for the NACC, *Asbestos in NSW: Setting the Direction*.

The Australian Government Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) has also released their *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan*, which focuses on national strategies that facilitate the safe, proactive removal and disposal of asbestos.

The NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan

On behalf of NSW, the NACC has decided to address both the *Next Horizon* and *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan* priorities with one delivery plan, which will guide our actions from now until 2030. This NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan (Delivery Plan) sets out the actions agencies will take to meet the commitments outlined in both *Next Horizon* and the *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan*. Agencies listed as lead and partners will use their agency specific skills, knowledge and available resources to collaborate and drive progress with a focus on eliminating barriers and achieving the action objectives.

Some *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan* priorities are specifically for agencies outside the NACC, such as Commonwealth agencies. These priorities may not be reflected in this delivery plan. NSW has also exercised some discretion in choosing *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan* priorities that align with NSW's goals and priorities.

An independent review of the NSW Resource Recovery Framework recommended that a scientific expert provide advice on the management of asbestos contaminants in waste and recovered materials. The NSW Government engaged the Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) to evaluate any scientific evidence that would support alternative approaches to managing asbestos in recovered materials. OCSE completed its report in December 2024, and consideration of the report's recommendations has been included in this delivery plan.

The Delivery Plan will guide priority effort on particular projects that require collaboration across government. There are many business-as-usual actions carried out by NACC agencies that help us better manage asbestos. The delivery plan lists only those that require inter-agency collaboration. While some of the actions in the Delivery Plan started prior to this plan, and others will continue after it, the actions outlined in this plan show how NSW is addressing the strategic aims of the Commonwealth and NSW from now until 2030 as we continue our work towards the elimination of asbestos-related disease in NSW.

Timeline

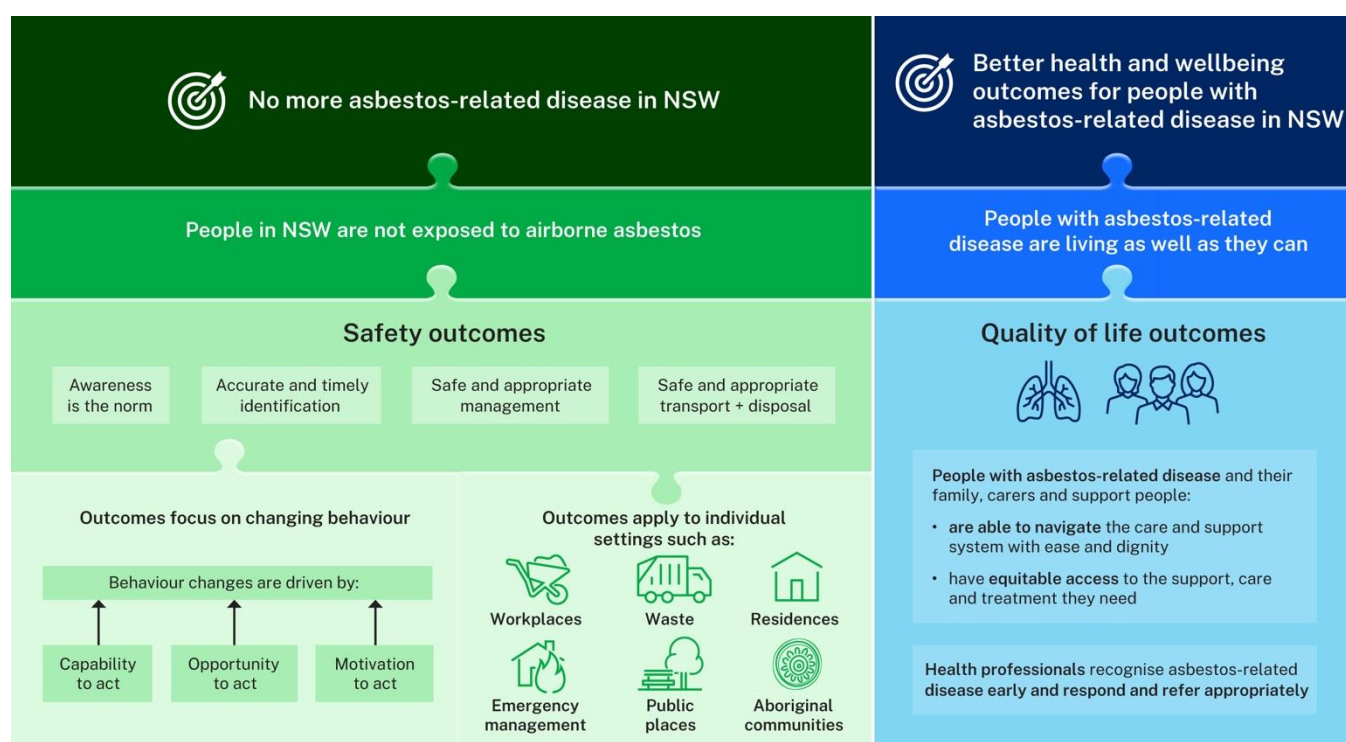
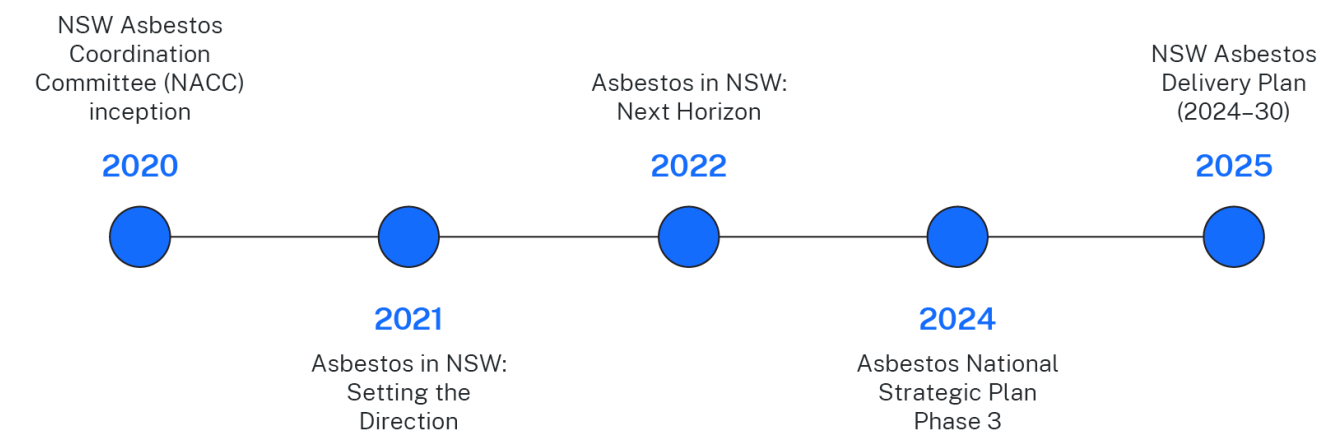


Figure 1 Outcomes framework for asbestos in NSW

Next steps

The NACC will track the implementation of the actions in this delivery plan, including monitoring project risks and achievements against expected outcomes. This monitoring and reporting will also meet the reporting requirements under the *Phase Three Asbestos National Strategic Plan*.

The NACC will review the delivery plan as required to make sure priorities, timeframes and partners are still relevant and that the plan is delivering on the outcomes sought. As actions included in this plan progress, new actions may be developed and added.



Next Horizon Priority 1: Keeping people safe – Asbestos awareness in community

Public messaging and health advice around asbestos is changing as our climate changes and asbestos-containing materials come to their end of life. The NACC is working to keep the NSW community aware and informed.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
A1	Create an asbestos education and awareness campaign Create a campaign that promotes safe identification, removal and disposal of asbestos as well as information on regulatory compliances of asbestos waste across NSW, including a focus on reaching regional areas, householders, businesses, Aboriginal people and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Aboriginal Affairs NSW Local Government NSW NSW Health Office of Local Government SafeWork NSW	Started Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. People that come into contact with asbestos have the knowledge and confidence to deal with it safely.
2. Awareness about asbestos and how to keep safe is the norm in NSW.
3. Aboriginal people understand the risks of asbestos, how to stay safe, and who to contact if support is needed.



Next Horizon Priority 1: Keeping people safe – Asbestos training for workers

An increasing number of different workers are coming into contact with asbestos-containing material. These actions aim to keep training needs relevant and accessible to all workers who may come into contact with asbestos-containing materials.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
B1	Promote and extend asbestos awareness and safety course 1. Continue to promote existing asbestos awareness and safety course for workers. 2. Extend existing asbestos awareness training that meets work health and safety legislative requirements and codes to a wider range of workers including: — apprentices, waste supply chain workers (including transporters and facility workers) — Aboriginal businesses — asbestos surveyors — building inspectors and certifiers — real estate agents and property managers — culturally and linguistically diverse communities — council workers e.g. Environmental Health Officers. 3. Evaluate and improve asbestos awareness and safety course for workers. 4. Consider options to continue provision of free asbestos awareness and safety course.	SafeWork NSW	Aboriginal Affairs NSW NSW Environment Protection Authority Local Government NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Aboriginal Outcomes)	Started Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Workers who come into contact with asbestos have the knowledge and confidence to deal with it safely.
2. Awareness about asbestos and how to keep safe is the norm in NSW.
3. Improve asbestos-related training.
4. Implement asbestos awareness training for certain workers.



Next Horizon Priority 1: Keeping people safe – Asbestos awareness in homes

Securing communication lines and touch points for homeowners and tenants in properties built before 1990 will help in providing up-to-date asbestos awareness and safety information to vulnerable residents.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
C1	Explore options to develop asbestos awareness training for DIYers and homeowners Explore options to develop an asbestos awareness training course targeting non-workers such as DIYers and homeowners using the existing asbestos awareness and safety course as a model.	NSW Environment Protection Authority Local Government NSW	SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: two years
C2	Deliver asbestos awareness for real estate agents and conveyancers 1. Deliver a program on the risks of asbestos-containing materials in homes built before 1990 to improve knowledge of conveyancers and real estate agents. 2. Prepare information for conveyancers and real estate agents to provide to new homeowners and tenants during property transactions.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	ASSEA	Starting 2027 Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Property owners are aware of the presence and location of asbestos.
2. Implement identification and disclosure of asbestos in residential properties.



Next Horizon Priority 2: Dealing with the legacy – Asbestos in discrete Aboriginal communities

There is a significant volume of business-as-usual work happening in this area that is not listed in this delivery plan. These collaborative actions will provide a good understanding of how much asbestos is in discrete Aboriginal communities and allow for strategic planning and cost-effective measures to be put in place. Note while Aboriginal-owned community housing was identified in Next Horizon for active management, it is recognised that many of these homes are managed by a number of different housing providers under various maintenance programs.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
D1	Identify and assess asbestos in discrete Aboriginal communities Collaborate across government to coordinate the identification and assessment of the extent of asbestos in all 61 discrete Aboriginal communities, including in the built and natural environment.	Aboriginal Affairs NSW	NSW Environment Protection Authority NSW Health NSW Public Works	Started 2024 Expected project length: two years
D2	Develop implementation strategies for prioritised asbestos removal within discrete Aboriginal communities Consider the results of D1 to develop implementation strategies for the recommendations of D1, including to develop a prioritised asbestos removal and management program across all 61 discrete Aboriginal communities, including buildings and the natural environment.	Aboriginal Affairs NSW	NSW Environment Protection Authority NSW Health NSW Public Works	Starting 2027 Ongoing

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
D3	Continue asbestos remediation and management in specific discrete Aboriginal communities Continue the ongoing work in Wallaga Lake and Baryulgil discrete Aboriginal communities to take a risk-based approach to remediate and manage legacy asbestos.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Aboriginal Affairs NSW NSW Public Works	Started Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Asbestos in discrete Aboriginal communities and in Aboriginal community owned housing is actively and safely managed.
2. Aboriginal people understand the risks of asbestos, how to stay safe, and who to contact if help is needed.



Next Horizon Priority 2: Dealing with the legacy – Legacy asbestos fill sites

NSW is seeking a strategic approach to address this issue with a view to developing a long-term resolution.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
E1	Investigate options to manage and remediate legacy asbestos fill sites Investigate options to manage and remediate James Hardie legacy asbestos fill sites.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	NSW Health SafeWork NSW Property and Development NSW	Starting 2025 Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. The community is not exposed to legacy waste from previous asbestos manufacturing industries used as fill on public and private land.



Next Horizon Priority 2: Dealing with the legacy – Ageing asbestos materials

As asbestos materials in our environment degrade, we need to understand where the risks lie, where the greatest gains can be made, and what motivates actions that will best protect people and the environment.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
F1	Review information sharing with councils Review information sharing arrangements between state government and local councils regarding asbestos in buildings and land that poses a risk to human health.	Local Government NSW	NSW Environment Protection Authority Fire and Rescue NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning) SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: two years
F2	Identify, quantify and map ‘super-six’ asbestos roofing Identify, quantify and map ‘super-six’ asbestos roofing at commercial and industrial premises across the Greater Metropolitan Area and other areas of high population density in NSW to inform the development of future programs to minimise risks posed by the material.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	ASSEA Fire and Rescue NSW Local Government NSW	Started 2024 Expected project length: two years
F3	Consider ASSEA research on government supported incentives Consider ASSEA findings on incentives for proactive asbestos removal and ‘willingness to pay’ research to determine whether any actions are appropriate for development in NSW that will either inform existing programs or inspire exploration for new programs.	NACC	ASSEA	Starting 2025 Expected project length: three years

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
F4	Complete the ASSEA National Asbestos Survey Guide Complete the guidance for providing a nationally consistent and robust process for conducting asbestos surveys and assessing asbestos-containing material risks, to support asbestos management and removal decisions.	ASSEA	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: one year
F5	Complete the low-level exposure to asbestos fibres risk review Complete low level asbestos exposure risk review (known risks and methodologies for measurement) and field studies to better understand and explain the health risks associated with low level exposure.	ASSEA	-	Starting 2025 Expected project length: one year
F6	Consider the use of ASSEA survey guide and exposure risk work in NSW Consider whether ASSEA National Asbestos Survey Guide and risk assessment model, as well as the research on low level asbestos exposure risk, can be used to inform future work in relation to prioritising asbestos-containing materials removals in NSW.	NACC	ASSEA	Starting 2026 Expected project length: three years
F7	Explore recording data on asbestos-containing materials in government owned buildings Explore the adaption of the Victorian system of recording data on asbestos-containing materials in government owned buildings (AIRSystem) for use in NSW.	NACC	-	Starting 2025 Expected project length: two years

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Owners of burnt and derelict properties remove the asbestos risk in a safe and timely manner.
2. Regulatory, insurance and other systems support owners to remove asbestos in a safe and timely manner.
3. Develop incentives to encourage the safe removal of asbestos-containing materials from residential and commercial properties.



Next Horizon Priority 3: Improving systems – Improving asbestos waste disposal

NACC agencies are working on options to remove asbestos at source and improve accessibility and traceability of asbestos disposal.

As part of business-as-usual work for the NSW Environment Protection Authority, work is underway with other states to harmonise waste tracking systems.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
G1	Update the Managing Land Contamination Planning Guidelines Update the Managing Land Contamination Planning Guidelines related to Chapter 4 of SEPP (Resilience and Hazards) previously SEPP 55 to provide standard operating procedures, including for asbestos management and identify guidance material on this to make it easy to access.	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning)	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Started 2024 Expected project length: one year
G2	Undertake targeted compliance actions Collaborate with other regulators to undertake compliance actions to enforce industry compliance with asbestos requirements and minimise asbestos contamination within waste.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning) Local councils*	Started Ongoing
G3	Update exempt development controls Updating exempt development controls to require licensed asbestos removal to ensure that all asbestos removal above certain thresholds is done by licensed professionals, including DIY renovators.	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning)	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: six months

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
G4	Review asbestos management in resource recovery Review and respond to the recommendations of the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist and Engineer in the December 2024 report, <i>Management of asbestos in recovered fines and recovered materials for beneficial reuse in NSW</i>.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	NACC agencies as relevant	Starting 2025 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
G5	Consider ways to strengthen certification of waste classifiers Consider ways to strengthen the assessment of asbestos at the point of origin. This could include certification of waste classifiers.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
G6	Verification of work, health and safety compliance at waste facilities Ensure the safety of workers at waste facilities by verifying asbestos identification, handling and control measures.	SafeWork NSW	Local Government NSW	Started Ongoing
G7	Undertake and evaluate a residential asbestos waste trial 1. Undertake a pilot program to trial and evaluate drop off options for residents to dispose of small volumes of asbestos waste. 2. Following the pilot, evaluate outcomes and determine whether a broader program would be beneficial.	Local Government NSW	NSW Environment Protection Authority Local councils* SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: one year

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
G8	Review waste levy on disposal of asbestos Review waste levy policy to consider expanding the current levy exemption framework to apply to asbestos-containing materials.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	Office of Local Government Local Government NSW	Started 2024 Expected project length: two years
G9	Deliver waste infrastructure profiles across NSW Complete the work started in 2023 to deliver regional residual waste infrastructure profiles across NSW that identify asbestos disposal sites (landfills and transfer stations) and opportunities for future regional waste infrastructure planning.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	-	Started Expected project length: two years
G10	Increase compliance activities on asbestos waste tracking Increase compliance activities on asbestos waste tracking to ensure all appropriate waste is tracked and asbestos waste generators are using the integrated waste tracking system.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	-	Started Ongoing

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
G11	Explore options to share information about rejected waste loads Explore options for real-time sharing of information about waste loads rejected by waste transfer or receival sites to help prevent the transfer of contaminated loads between facilities.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
G12	Connect asbestos waste tracking systems in the integrated waste tracking system Investigate the possibility of connecting information about asbestos removal notifications in the SafeWork Online Notification System and asbestos waste tracking information in the integrated waste tracking system.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	SafeWork NSW	Started 2024 Expected project length: two years
G13	Investigate alignment of asbestos provisions across regulatory frameworks Investigate ways to align provisions across work health and safety, contaminated land and <i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i> frameworks where it makes sense to do. Work with NACC members and across government.	NACC	SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: three years
G14	Publish asbestos in soils guide Publish information for industry on common asbestos-in-soils environmental management scenarios on the EPA's website.	NSW Environment Protection Authority	SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
G15	Consider planning information and processes Consider how planning information and processes could be used to provide more information on asbestos to people undertaking development works, including information on minimising health risks and ensuring good waste management practices. 1. Understand the possible touchpoints and information sources for people who may encounter asbestos while undertaking development works. 2. Determine whether there are opportunities to enhance or improve information on asbestos risks and mitigations.	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning)	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
G16	Monitor the use of best-practice standard conditions for asbestos Monitor the use of standard conditions relating to asbestos by consent authorities and consider whether the application of these conditions to certain types of development consent should be made mandatory by prescribing under the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021</i>.	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Planning)	NSW Environment Protection Authority SafeWork NSW	Started Ongoing

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Householders and businesses understand what they need to do to dispose of asbestos waste safely and legally.
2. When people transport and dispose of asbestos in NSW, good practice is the norm and bad practice is rare.
3. Everybody who transports and disposes of asbestos waste finds it easy and affordable to do legally and safely.

* Local councils will be consulted before they are included as a partner on this action.



Next Horizon Priority 3: Improving systems – Disaster waste management and communications

The NACC is examining and using information from previous disaster events to inform improvements in communication and disposal options of asbestos materials after natural events.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
H1	Update emergency waste plans Document information gained from 2019–20 bushfires and 2021 and 2022 floods and use lessons learned to update emergency waste plans and develop disaster-specific plans with a focus on asbestos in building stock.	NSW Public Works	Aboriginal Affairs NSW NSW Environment Protection Authority Fire and Rescue NSW Local Government NSW	Started 2024 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
H2	Investigate immediate expert support for councils during disasters Investigate the establishment of an asbestos expert panel to provide immediate advice and guidance to councils on asbestos management and clean-up during natural disasters.	Local Government NSW	NSW Environment Protection Authority Fire and Rescue NSW SafeWork NSW	Starting 2025 Expected project length: twelve months
H3	Ensure NSW Asbestos Website provides reliable and up to date information Provide up to date and immediate information to support disaster response agencies in communicating with the community about asbestos during natural disasters by providing resources on the NSW Asbestos website.	NSW Environment Protection Authority NSW Public Works	Local Government NSW	Starting 2025 Ongoing

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
H4	Deliver a Regional Disaster Waste Management and Response Strategy for the Northern Rivers region Deliver a Northern Rivers region disaster waste strategy that includes consideration of asbestos waste during disasters. The program will focus on: - temporary waste transfer stations - management of disaster waste - options to establish new regional disaster waste permanent management facilities.	NSW Environment Protection Authority NSW Public Works NSW Reconstruction Authority	-	Started 2024 Expected project length: twelve to eighteen months
H5	Utilise learnings from the Regional Disaster Waste Management and Response Strategy for the Northern Rivers region Consider the results of the Regional Disaster Waste Management and Response Strategy for the Northern Rivers region and extension of a similar program across all areas of NSW.	NSW Environment Protection Authority NSW Public Works	NSW Reconstruction Authority	Starting 2026 Expected project length: two years

Next Horizon outcomes

1. Local and state government agencies can safely dispose of disaster waste.
2. Communities impacted by disasters and emergencies know how to safely manage asbestos.
3. There is consistent messaging across response and recovery agencies about asbestos



Next Horizon Priority: Better health and wellbeing outcomes for people with asbestos-related disease in NSW

While Next Horizon didn't have any specific health priorities, health is prominent in the outcomes framework and in the aims of the *Asbestos National Strategic Plan*. Ongoing health actions that meet these outcomes have been included in the delivery plan.

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
I1	Provide early identification of asbestos diseases for workers via ongoing assessable medical assessment Continue providing ongoing medical assessment, such as lung screening services, CT scans and medical consultation, to NSW workplace employees who are (or have been) at risk of being exposed to harmful dust, including asbestos. Provide at no direct cost to the worker and through fixed and mobile clinics.	icare	-	Started Ongoing
I2	Improve general-practitioner awareness Collaborate to develop general-practitioner training resources to improve asking questions about occupation during patient assessment.	NSW Health	-	Starting 2025 Expected project length: one year
I3	Improve referral pathways for people with suspected and diagnosed mesothelioma Work with general practitioners and respiratory physicians to assist with dissemination of Commonwealth mesothelioma guidelines.	NSW Health	-	Starting 2025 Expected project length: one year

Number	Action	Lead agency	Partner agencies	Proposed timeframe
J1	Continue providing medical and financial support for workers impacted by asbestos and their dependents Continue providing support to workers impacted by compensable dust diseases contracted in NSW workplaces and their dependents. Support can include medical expenses for treatment and care, support services, financial benefits and providing dependents with ongoing support, like funeral expenses, and compensation.	icare	-	Started Ongoing
J2	Continue grant funding for support services Continue grant funding programs for support services that are responsive to changes in the dust diseases operating environment and the evolving needs of people impacted by hazardous dust exposure, including asbestos, as part of the NSW Dust Diseases Board's new grant strategy 2025-29.	icare	-	Started Ongoing
K1	Continue to support grant funding streams Continue grant funding programs for research into prevention, diagnosis, treatment and therapy for dust diseases, including asbestos-related disease, as part of the NSW Dust Diseases Board's new grant strategy 2025-29.	icare	-	Starting Ongoing

Asbestos National Strategic Plan strategic links

Asbestos National Strategic Plan priority	Delivery Plan actions
Priority 1: Accurate identification and consistent assessment	A1, B1, C1, C2
Priority 2: Risk control and prioritised removal	F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, G3
Priority 3: Safe and effective transport and disposal	G2, G7, G8, G9, G10, G12, G13
Priority 4: Early diagnosis of asbestos-related diseases	I1, I2, I3
Priority 5: Easy navigation of care and support system	J1, J2
Priority 6: Improved diagnostic, therapeutic and other treatment methods	K1

