



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council

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Communique

Meeting 5 – 20 November 2024

The [Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Council](#) (the Council) held its fifth meeting on 20 November 2024 on the traditional Country of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri country (Canberra). Council members welcomed the appointment of incoming Council members, Sally North (member representing state, territory and local government) and Kate Cole OAM (member with expertise relevant to asbestos safety, asbestos-related diseases, silica safety or silica-related diseases).

Council members considered the membership of the newly established Asbestos Advisory Committee and Silica Advisory Committee. The committees were established following the introduction of the silica functions into the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) and the development of phase three of the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30 and inaugural Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30. The committees will provide insight and advice to ASSEA and the Council on the implementation of the plans. It is expected that the committees will meet in early 2025.

Council members noted the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30 has been endorsed by all nine Australian governments, representing a national commitment to implement actions focussing on the priorities. In relation to the Silica National Strategic Plan, Council members noted that ASSEA had been advised that at least six of the nine Australian governments had endorsed the plan. It was noted that the agency is currently designing a Senior National Strategic Plan (NSP) Implementation Forum with those responsible for leading actions for either or both NSPs.

Both the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–30 and the Silica National Strategic Plan 2024–30 commit ASSEA to work with Indigenous agencies and communities to identify and implement mechanisms for reducing their risks of exposure to legacy asbestos, asbestos-related diseases, exposure to respirable crystalline silica, and silica-related diseases. Council members noted that in order to achieve this action, ASSEA will develop an Indigenous Engagement Strategy with a view to building relationships with Indigenous communities to support the management and removal of legacy asbestos from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In addition, Council members considered the outcomes of research conducted by the Australian Government's Behavioural Economics Team (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet) and the jurisdictional consultation on options for government-supported incentives for proactive asbestos removal. Council members noted the final report will be published on the ASSEA website.

The next Council meeting will be held in April 2025.