

NSW Asbestos Plan of Action

Response to the advice from NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on asbestos management in recovered materials

July 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

The NSW Environment Protection Authority acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work, honours the ancestors and the Elders both past and present and extends that respect to all Aboriginal people.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples' spiritual and cultural connection and inherent right to protect the land, waters, skies and natural resources of NSW. This connection goes deep and has since the Dreaming.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.

NSW Asbestos Plan of Action

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Close up of rubble. (Credit: EPA)



Foreword

The NSW Government welcomes the findings and recommendations of the independent advice by the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer on the management of asbestos in recovered fines and recovered materials for beneficial reuse in NSW.

Asbestos remains a legacy issue in our environment, and its presence continues to pose risks to human health. The Government acknowledges its important role in regulating the management of asbestos to ensure these risks are effectively addressed.

Asbestos was widely used in buildings and infrastructure across NSW until its use was phased out in the 1990s. Its legacy persists in contaminated soils and our construction and demolition waste, making it essential that we strengthen our systems to prevent contamination of recycled materials.

Through the Chief Scientist and Engineer's advice and our response, we are committed to working closely with industry and the community to safeguard the future of the recovered materials sector from asbestos. This includes establishing a robust regulatory framework supported by strong compliance measures.

Those who generate construction and demolition waste play a vital role in preventing asbestos from entering the recycling stream. A key objective of this action plan is to ensure best practices are adopted, particularly in the identification, removal and lawful disposal of asbestos waste so that it does not mix with recyclable materials.

Our response has been shaped by extensive stakeholder engagement. The advice from the Chief Scientist and Engineer was informed by consultation with industry representatives, community members, and experts. Members of the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee have worked together to develop the actions outlined in this plan, which have been tested with targeted peak industry groups. Further consultation will continue as individual actions are developed and implemented.

I thank the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, for his advice, and the expert working group for its input and contributions to this important review.

The NSW Government's response will help ensure a viable, sustainable, and safe resource recovery industry. We look forward to continuing our work with stakeholders to build confidence in the safety and integrity of recovered materials in NSW.

The Honourable Penny Sharpe, MLC

Minister for Environment

Minister for Climate Change

Minister for Energy

Minister for Heritage

Background

In November 2022, the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer (OCSE) was requested by the (then) Minister for the Environment to provide advice about the safe and effective management of asbestos in recovered fines,¹ and the beneficial reuse of materials recovered from waste more broadly. The NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) advocated seeking the advice and helped define the required scope of work. The NACC considered that an improved and independent evidence base was necessary to guide decisions on the safe and effective management of asbestos. The request for advice was also part of a broader initiative supporting the implementation of recommendations made in the 2021 Independent Review of the Resource Recovery Framework, including that an external scientific expert should evaluate and advise on NSW's approach to managing asbestos contaminants in waste and recovered materials.

The Terms of Reference for the advice from OCSE included, among other things, a consideration of the potential to introduce a tolerable threshold level for asbestos in recovered materials intended for beneficial reuse and the most appropriate sampling and analytical approach for asbestos in recovered material. The purpose of the advice is to identify risks within the value chain for recovered materials derived from construction and demolition waste (C&D waste), to assess shortcomings in the current measures in place, and to provide recommendations for practical and beneficial changes.

OCSE prepared its advice during 2023 and 2024. As part of this, it released a discussion paper for public comment and received 30 submissions from a range of stakeholders. OCSE's final advice was provided to the Minister for the Environment in December 2024 and publicly released in February 2025.

OCSE's final advice identified key weaknesses in the asbestos management regulatory framework, including insufficient barriers and quality controls across the value chain. To address these issues, the advice makes nine recommendations focusing on the implementation of a coordinated, risk-based, 'through-chain' approach to managing asbestos in recovered fines and materials intended for beneficial reuse.

The advice from OCSE affects stakeholders in the construction and demolition industry, the waste sector, and environmental practitioners who support these industries. The advice includes the need for best-practice guidance, further research, and improvements to the current waste regulatory framework to ensure the framework effectively addresses asbestos risks and protects human health.

The NSW Government released a short response to the advice in July 2025, accepting six recommendations in full and three recommendations in principle. This action plan sets out the NSW Government's full response to the nine recommendations of the advice.

¹ 'Recovered fines' refers to the residue remaining after all recyclable construction waste material has been removed from skip bins and other recovered materials.

The plan of action

Overview

This action plan reflects a comprehensive consideration of all recommendations from OCSE's advice, as well as additional feedback received to date through the Government's consultation process in developing this plan.

The actions in this plan are designed to implement a risk-based, through-chain approach to asbestos management in recovered construction and demolition (C&D) material, through four focus areas:

- Strengthen requirements on and practices by construction and demolition (C&D) waste generators to identify, separately remove and dispose of asbestos in C&D waste.
- Enhance oversight of the transport of suspected asbestos waste loads.
- Improve risk management at waste facilities, including by establishing clear asbestos thresholds for products made from recovered C&D waste.
- Complementary actions that support and optimise the proposed improvements to the asbestos management framework.

A fit-for-purpose legislative and policy framework underpins each of these focus areas. The Government is committed to reviewing legislation including, but not limited to, the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and its regulations to address OCSE's recommendations..

The plan was developed in consultation with member agencies of the NACC, including SafeWork NSW, Office of Local Government, Transport for NSW, Planning NSW, Building Commission NSW, Property and Development NSW, Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency and Local Government NSW. We also engaged with peak stakeholder groups to ensure that our plan reflects the needs and realities of the resource recovery sector. Feedback from the EPA's Construction and Demolition Working Group, comprising industry representatives, and the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute, were also considered. Between 2024 and 2025, the engagement with these groups provided valuable insights into vulnerabilities within the current regulatory framework.

Purpose

The actions in the plan aim to strengthen control measures across the value chain to minimise the risk of asbestos in construction and demolition waste that is designated for resource recovery, with an emphasis on early detection of the presence of asbestos at the point of origin by waste generators.

Successful implementation of this action plan will achieve the following long-term outcomes:

- The range of control measures applied through the value chain significantly reduces the risk of asbestos in recovered materials made from construction and demolition waste.
- Industry and the community have confidence in the effective management of asbestos risks and the safety and integrity of recovered materials in NSW.

Implementation approach and timing

These comprehensive actions will take different lengths of time to implement, the length depending on the nature and scale of the change being implemented. A phased approach to implementation will be adopted.

The proposed timeframes for delivery were carefully considered, based on feedback from members of the NACC, implementation needs and further consultation requirements. A phased delivery approach will ensure that we can continue to support affected stakeholders while the plan is being implemented.

The NSW Government will work closely with affected stakeholders in the construction and demolition industry, the waste sector, and environmental practitioners who support these industries to co-design key elements and clarify roles and responsibilities within the strengthened risk-management framework. The Government's Asbestos NSW website will be updated to ensure that risks, roles and responsibilities are communicated clearly and effectively to influence behaviours.

Implementation is a whole-of-government responsibility, led by the EPA, SafeWork NSW, Planning NSW and the Building Commission NSW. Several members of the NACC will partner to deliver the actions.

Regulators of asbestos management in NSW, including the EPA, SafeWork NSW and planning authorities, will work together to ensure that all participants in the value chain for recovered materials understand their obligations and engage competent service providers to identify and manage asbestos risks.

The success of the plan and the performance of the through-chain approach will be evaluated over time by the EPA to test the strengths of the system and adapt practices in response to lessons learned. The EPA will proactively share insights with other jurisdictions to promote regulatory consistency.

This action plan complements the NACC's NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan, which addresses broader asbestos waste disposal issues through to 2030. The Government's response to OCSE's report will be delivered over a shorter timeframe and is designed to align with, not replace, the NACC's forward agenda. Ongoing consultation with the NACC will ensure coordinated implementation.

We also acknowledge that the Asbestos National Strategic Plan 2024–2030 highlights several key actions to be implemented by lead agencies that are supported by government and non-government partners, including unions and employer representatives. Key actions that intersect with this plan include developing guides on asbestos contamination in construction and demolition waste and asbestos safety for waste facility operators and workers, to ensure safe and effective transport and disposal (Priority 3).

Focus areas and actions

The focus areas and actions that form the NSW Government's comprehensive response to OCSE's advice are set out in detail below.

Focus area 1: Strengthen practices by and requirements on waste generators to identify, remove and dispose of asbestos

The NSW Government acknowledges the need to focus on reducing and eliminating asbestos at all stages, including through source separation by waste generators at construction and demolition sites, including residential premises. The advice from OCSE highlighted the role of the Government in supporting better source separation at demolition sites, by identifying industry best practice and providing clear and consistent guidance, training and competency around robust asbestos identification and handling for all workers handling asbestos prior to disposal. Waste generators must comply with environmental, planning, and work health and safety regulations, making coordination among regulators essential for consistency in approach and outcomes for recovered materials. Providing incentives that make asbestos disposal cheaper and easier for residential properties offers significant value in promoting safe and appropriate waste management.

This focus area of the plan addresses key asbestos management risks, specifically the failure to identify, properly remove, and separate asbestos-containing materials (ACM) during demolition; and responds to recommendations 1 and 7. It supports initiatives in the [NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan](#), including certification of waste classifiers (Action G5), review of waste levy on disposal of asbestos waste (Action G8), residential asbestos waste collection trial (G7), planning information and processes (G16), and best-practice standards conditions for asbestos (G17).

Short-term actions

During the next 6 months, we will:

- Promote intrusive asbestos surveys as best practice for detecting asbestos prior to undertaking demolition and renovation projects.

Medium-term actions

During the next 6 to 18 months, we will:

- Strengthen planning controls for asbestos management in specified developments, and support best practice by planning authorities and registered certifiers, including by:
 - updating asbestos management requirements for complying development to ensure that post-demolition checks confirm proper asbestos removal and disposal
 - consulting with councils to develop additional resources that support best practice by planning authorities
 - introducing a requirement that exempt development involving minor alterations must not cover or clad asbestos-containing material, ensuring appropriate safety measures are in place

- promoting training on asbestos management for registered certifiers operating under the environmental planning legislative framework.
- Update and develop resources to guide industry best practice for asbestos management at construction and demolition sites for environment protection.
- Establish a trial of a free residential asbestos collection service for smaller amounts of asbestos waste.

Long-term actions

In the longer term from 18 months, we will:

- Introduce requirements for assessing C&D waste for asbestos at key points in the value chain by accredited waste classifiers, and establish an accreditation scheme for these waste classifiers. This action will include the development of competency-based training for individuals to support the rollout of the waste classifiers accreditation scheme.
- Introduce requirements for waste classification to be carried out by the waste generator, using an accredited waste classifier where appropriate, with documentation accompanying the waste load through to the receiving facility.

Focus area 2: Enhance oversight of the transport of suspected asbestos waste

The NSW Government recognises that illegal dumping and rejected waste loads can stem from poor disposal and source separation practices at waste generation sites. Improvements are needed to prevent asbestos waste from being mistakenly sent for recycling with construction and demolition waste, where it may be rejected by the waste facility. Introducing requirements to track suspected asbestos loads rejected by facilities will help reduce the risk of illegal dumping or diversion of these loads to non-compliant sites. Additionally, standardising data collection and analysis, starting with better data sharing among regulators, is essential to inform and adapt regulatory responses.

This focus area responds to review recommendations 1 and 7 by addressing key asbestos management risks, including asbestos-containing waste being sent for recycling, failure to meet regulatory standards on environment health and safety, and illegal dumping. It supports initiatives in the [NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan](#), such as connecting asbestos waste tracking systems (Action G12), increasing compliance activities on asbestos waste tracking (G10), and sharing information about rejected waste loads (G11).

Medium-term actions

During the next 6 to 18 months, we will:

- Introduce regulatory requirements for waste transporters and waste facilities to report the movements of rejected loads that contain suspected or actual asbestos waste via the EPA's Integrated Waste Tracking Solution (IWTS), and promote client-customer improvements led by industry.

Long-term actions

In the longer term from 18 months, we will explore options for:

- a networked register to collect and share information about rejected loads of suspected or actual asbestos waste loads between waste facilities, for example using the IWTS
 - integrating and automating data sharing between the IWTS and ONS and possibly relevant data from the NSW Planning Portal
 - sharing data from the IWTS with local councils and registered certifiers to support compliance checks against planning approvals and investigations into alleged illegal dumping.
-

Focus area 3: Improve risk management at waste facilities and establish clear standards for end products

OCSE's advice highlighted that there is a place for thresholds as part of a broader risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered materials, but additional safety factors also need to be considered for waste facilities. Makers of recovered materials, particularly licensed waste facilities, need to do more to comprehensively manage the risk of asbestos in recovered materials, including better pre-acceptance procedures for waste loads, better waste processing controls, and sampling and analysis of the end products to validate the effectiveness of quality assurance and quality control processes. The NSW Government is committed to working with affected industry to strengthen its requirements for waste facilities and provide effective guidelines to improve practices.

This focus area addresses asbestos management risks such as failure to identify and remove asbestos-containing materials (ACM) during load inspection or processing, failure to meet product quality, and failure to meet regulatory standards on environment health and safety. It responds to review recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 9, and supports initiatives in the [NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan](#), including asbestos awareness and safety training course (Action B1) and certification of waste classifiers (G5).

Medium-term actions

During the next 6 to 18 months, we will:

- Revise the EPA's *Standards for C&D Waste Facilities* to incorporate relevant parts of the Western Australia *Guideline for Managing Asbestos at Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities*, and standards and protocols from other jurisdictions, to strengthen asbestos management requirements for recovered materials, including:
 - site-specific QA/QC system for asbestos management, incorporating an unexpected finds protocol
 - requirements for rejected loads
 - mandatory use of accredited waste classifiers.
- Introduce a 0.001% w/w threshold for asbestos in waste or other materials, which reflects the detection limit for asbestos reporting. This will be supported by approved methods for analysis, along with other management requirements in resource recovery orders and/or exemptions. The

approved methods will specify appropriate techniques for different circumstances, waste types and forms of asbestos.

- Develop guidance for industry on best practice for asbestos management at C&D waste facilities, to assist compliance.
- Review the environment protection licensing thresholds in the POEO Act for **resource recovery** and **waste processing** to ensure they reflect current risk levels and operational practices for asbestos management.

Long-term actions

In the longer term from 18 months, we will introduce requirements for assessing C&D waste for asbestos at key points in the value chain by accredited waste classifiers, and establish an accreditation scheme for these waste classifiers (as per focus area 1).

Focus area 4: Complementary actions to support and optimise the proposed improvements to the asbestos management framework

OCSE's advice highlighted the value of a coordinated, through-chain, risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered materials, recommending a staged pilot to design, test and validate this method. The NSW Government supports ongoing evaluation to drive improvements for asbestos management, including monitoring emerging technologies for asbestos detection. Collaboration with other jurisdictions to share knowledge and promote consistent approaches will also benefit industry and the community.

This focus area addresses several identified asbestos management risks and review recommendations (1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8), with a particular focus on failures in asbestos identification prior to demolition, failure to meet regulatory standards on environment health and safety, and illegal dumping. The actions support key initiatives in the [NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan](#), including targeted compliance activities (Action G2), verification of work health and safety compliance at waste facilities (G6), and investigation of the alignment of asbestos provisions across regulatory frameworks (G13).

Short-term actions

During the next 6 months, we will:

- Review opportunities to align definitions for asbestos across NSW legislation and engage with other jurisdictions through Heads of EPA in Australia (HEPA) on better national consistency.

Medium-term actions

During the next 6 to 18 months, we will:

- Undertake periodic horizon scans for innovative asbestos detection technology for the waste industry in NSW.
- Develop and promote, in collaboration with the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute, educational materials to raise awareness on asbestos risks throughout the value chain for recovered C&D materials.

- Undertake a complementary, staged, pilot program to test key elements of the new through-chain, risk-based approach.
- Undertake targeted compliance campaigns to address potential non-compliance with asbestos management requirements across the value chain.

Long-term actions

In the longer term from 18 months, we will evaluate the success of implementing a through-chain, risk-based approach and share insights with other jurisdictions to promote outcomes and regulatory consistency.

Next steps

The NSW Government will implement the actions set out in this plan over three stages: during the first 6 months after publication; from 6 to 18 months; and in the longer term. The first stage focuses on areas that have the most immediate need for change and where measures can be readily implemented.

A regulation amendment package will be progressed over the next 6 months along with other short-term actions. Some actions will require longer-term planning and stakeholder consultation. These will start in 2026 and beyond.

The table below provides a high-level overview of expected timelines. They have been developed to allow sufficient time to do more consultation and to support stakeholders during transitions.

Table 1 Actions and implementation timelines

	Actions	Relates to the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan	Lead and partner agencies	Phased implementation timeline		
				Within first 6 months	Within next 6 to 18 months	Beyond 18 months
Focus area 1: Strengthen practices among waste generators to ensure asbestos is properly identified, removed and disposed of						
1.1	Promote intrusive asbestos surveys as best practice for detecting asbestos prior to undertaking demolition and renovation projects.		SafeWork NSW	✓		
1.2	Strengthen planning controls for asbestos management in specified developments, and support best practice by planning authorities and registered certifiers, including by: • updating asbestos management requirements for complying development to ensure post-demolition checks confirm proper asbestos removal and disposal • consulting with councils to develop additional resources that support best practice by planning authorities • introducing a requirement that exempt development involving minor alterations must not cover or clad asbestos-containing material.	Action G3 Action G15 Action G16	DPHI Planning partnering with Building Commission & EPA		✓	

	Actions	Relates to the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan	Lead and partner agencies	Phased implementation timeline		
				Within first 6 months	Within next 6 to 18 months	Beyond 18 months
	ensuring appropriate safety measures are in place promoting training on asbestos management for registered certifiers operating under the environmental planning legislative framework.					
1.3	Update and develop resources to guide industry best practice for asbestos management at construction and demolition sites for environment protection.		EPA		✓	
1.4	Establish a trial of a free residential asbestos collection service for smaller amounts of asbestos waste.	Action G7 Action G8	EPA		✓	
1.5	Introduce requirements for assessing C&D waste for asbestos at key points in the value chain performed by accredited waste classifiers and establish an accreditation scheme for these waste classifiers. This action will include the development of competency-based training for individuals to support the rollout of the waste classifiers accreditation scheme.	Action G5	EPA			✓
1.6	Introduce requirements for waste classification to be carried out by the waste generator using an accredited waste classifier where appropriate, with documentation accompanying the waste load through to the receiving facility.	Action G5	EPA			✓
	Focus area 2: Enhancing oversight of the transport of suspected asbestos waste					
2.2	Strengthen regulatory requirements for waste transporters and waste facilities to report rejected loads that contain suspected or actual asbestos waste via the IWTS and promote industry-led client-customer improvements.		EPA		✓	
2.3	Explore options for: - a networked register to collect and share information about rejected loads of suspected or actual asbestos waste loads between waste facilities, for example using the IWTS - integrating and automating data sharing between the IWTS and ONS and possibly relevant data from the NSW Planning Portal - sharing data from the IWTS with local councils and registered certifiers to support compliance checks against planning approvals and investigations into alleged illegal dumping.	Action G11 Action G12	EPA partnering with SafeWork NSW and DPHI Planning			✓

	Actions	Relates to the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan	Lead and partner agencies	Phased implementation timeline		
				Within first 6 months	Within next 6 to 18 months	Beyond 18 months
	Focus area 3: Improving risk management at waste facilities and establishing clear standards for end products					
3.1	Revise the EPA’s <i>Standards for C&D Waste Facilities</i> to incorporate relevant parts of the <i>Western Australia Guideline for Managing Asbestos at Construction and Demolition Waste Recycling Facilities</i> and other appropriate measures, including: - site-specific QA/QC system for asbestos management, incorporating an unexpected finds protocol - requirements for rejected loads - mandatory use of accredited waste classifiers.		EPA		✓	
3.2	Introduce a threshold for asbestos in recovered materials, which reflects the detection limit of asbestos reporting. This will be supported by approved methods for analysis, along with other management requirements in resource recovery orders and/or exemptions. The approved methods will specify appropriate techniques for different circumstances, waste types and forms of asbestos.		EPA		✓	
3.3	Develop guidance for industry on best practice for asbestos management at C&D waste facilities, especially unlicensed facilities, to assist compliance.		EPA		✓	
3.4	Review the environment protection licensing thresholds in the POEO Act for resource recovery and waste processing, to ensure they reflect current risk levels and operational practices for asbestos management.		EPA			✓
	Focus area 4: Advance improvements through evidence, evaluation, and knowledge sharing					
4.1	Develop and promote, in collaboration with the Asbestos and Dust Diseases Research Institute, educational materials to raise awareness of asbestos risks throughout the value chain for recovered C&D materials.	Action A1	EPA		✓	
4.2	Review opportunities to align definitions for asbestos across NSW legislation and engage with other jurisdictions through Heads of EPA in Australia (HEPA) on better national consistency in regulatory approach and outcomes for managing waste in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse.		EPA	✓		

	Actions	Relates to the NSW Asbestos Delivery Plan	Lead and partner agencies	Phased implementation timeline		
				Within first 6 months	Within next 6 to 18 months	Beyond 18 months
4.3	Periodic horizon scanning for and promotion of innovation in asbestos detection technology for the waste industry in NSW.		EPA		✓	
4.4	Validate any new regulatory settings for a through-chain, risk-based approach with NACC members and industry including, where appropriate, a staged pilot program for this approach.		EPA		✓	
4.6	Undertake targeted compliance campaigns to address potential non-compliance with asbestos management across the value chain.	Action G2 Action G10	EPA		✓	
4.7	Evaluate the success of implementing a through-chain, risk-based approach and share insights with other jurisdictions to promote outcomes and regulatory consistency.		EPA			✓

Table 2 How actions respond to specific recommendations in OCSE advice

OCSE Final Report recommendation	NSW Government detailed response
1 NSW Government should implement a coordinated, through-chain, risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered materials with advice on the application of thresholds, sampling and analysis designed to ensure that potential risks are understood and mitigated at each step in the value chain	Supported. The NSW EPA has developed this plan of action to outline actions designed to implement a coordinated, through-chain, risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered materials, together with guidance on the application of thresholds and sampling and analysis. These actions were developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders from the NSW Asbestos Coordination Committee (NACC) and with relevant industry stakeholders. The NSW EPA will continue to engage with relevant NACC members and industry stakeholders to implement these actions.
2 NSW Government considers implementing a threshold for asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse. The threshold should: • be based on the current criteria of 0.001% w/w (asbestos in any form) as described in the <i>WA Guideline: Managing asbestos at construction and demolition waste recycling facilities</i>, and meet all the requirements below: — no visible ACM — below 10 mg/kg weight of total asbestos/weight of product (i.e. 0.001 % w/w) — asbestos not detected using AS 5370. • support a through-chain, risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse • apply to the end product, ready for reuse in non-contact scenarios, although the threshold could also be used as an in-process standard to verify the efficacy of processing steps.	Supported in principle. Action 3.2 in this plan of action is to implement a threshold for asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse that broadly aligns with this recommendation. The NSW EPA will engage further with the relevant members of the NACC, waste generators, transporters and receivers, and environment consultants, to finalise the detail of how this threshold is implemented in NSW, and its application as part of a through-chain, risk-based approach for existing recovered C&D materials.
3 NSW EPA develops material acceptance, inspection, sampling and analysis guidelines for asbestos in recovered materials to assess product quality against the set threshold in consultation with industry stakeholders. The sampling and analysis guidelines should: • support a through-chain, risk-based approach to managing asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse • consider the nature of different materials and processing chains • be validated by the results from a staged pilot program.	Supported. Action 3.2 in this plan of action incorporates the development of guidance material to support the implementation of the set threshold for asbestos in recovered materials in different circumstances. The NSW EPA will consult with relevant stakeholders from the NACC and the relevant industries to develop, test and refine this guidance for material acceptance, inspection, sampling and analysis of asbestos in recovered materials to support a through-chain, risk-based approach.
4 NSW EPA updates <i>Standards for managing construction waste in NSW</i> (C&D Standards) to include a through-chain, risk-based approach by adopting the <i>WA Guideline: Managing asbestos at construction and demolition waste recycling facilities</i> (WA Guidelines).	Supported in principle. Action 3.1 in this plan of action is to update the existing <i>Standards for managing construction waste in NSW</i> to incorporate, where appropriate, parts of the WA Guidelines and any other relevant external material, to support a risk-based, through-chain approach.

		The NSW EPA will engage with relevant stakeholders from the NACC and with the resource recovery industry on any proposed updates to the C&D Standards.
5	NSW Government considers a staged pilot program of a through-chain, risk-based approach to design, test and validate findings and recommendations from this report.	Supported. The NSW Government will work through the EPA and the NACC and with industry to validate any new settings to implement a through-chain, risk-based approach, including where appropriate through a pilot program.
6	NSW Government engages with other jurisdictions to work towards a consistent approach and outcomes (including legislation) in managing asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse.	Supported. The NSW Government will engage through existing interjurisdictional government processes to work towards a consistent and aligned regulatory approach and outcomes for managing asbestos in recovered fines and materials for beneficial reuse.
7	NSW Government considers stronger support for better source separation at demolition sites, including residential premises, through the identification of industry best practice and provision of clear and consistent guidance, training and competency around robust asbestos identification and handling for all workers handling asbestos prior to disposal. NSW Government evaluates the delivery of small grants funding for council-run programs to date to inform the design of a more systematic funding model. NSW Government improves and standardises data collection, collation and analysis procedures to better inform and adapt management as part of a through-chain approach.	Supported in principle. Actions 1.1 to 1.6 in focus area 1 of this Plan of Action collectively promote and support better source separation at demolitions sites. They include promoting industry best practice, developing training and competency on asbestos identification and handling, and introducing new regulatory requirements and accreditation for identifying asbestos at key points in the C&D resource recovery value chain. The new guidance and regulatory requirements will also provide more consistent standards for data collection, collation and analysis in relation to asbestos assessments. The NSW Government has evaluated previous programs for council-run asbestos collection programs, and Action 1.5 proposes a new collection service to minimise the risk of asbestos contamination from household asbestos. The NSW Government will work through the NACC and relevant stakeholders to implement the proposed actions.
8	NSW Government remains aware of emerging technologies that can assist with asbestos detection and considers supporting the development and trialling of technologies that have high potential through a new NSW business research challenge program.	Supported. Action 4.2 provides for an annual horizon scanning of new asbestos detection technology. Where appropriate, the NSW Government will consider support for technologies that have high potential to enhance efficiency and are cost-effective in detecting asbestos throughout the value chain.
9	NSW Government facilitates development of national competency-based training for waste industry. NSW Government liaises with industry professional bodies to develop competency-based training for laboratory analysts, asbestos assessors/environmental auditors/occupational hygienists who consult or work with the waste industry.	Supported. Action 1.6 is to establish requirements for asbestos assessments to be undertaken by accredited waste classifiers, and to develop competency-based training for such asbestos assessments that underpin the accreditation scheme. The EPA will liaise with industry professional bodies to establish the accreditation scheme and develop the required competency-based training.

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