



Australian Government

Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency

Asbestos waste data update 2024-25

Australia's ageing asbestos legacy is a significant waste management challenge as the volume of asbestos waste being disposed in licenced facilities is increasing. Since landfill is currently the only legal disposal option, additional and sustainable solutions are becoming more urgent as we move towards proactive asbestos removal.



Cosgrove Landfill, Greater Shepparton City Council, Victoria



**ASBESTOS
SAFETY**

Asbestos waste data estimates for Australia are updated annually as part of national hazardous waste reporting to the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

State and territory governments capture data on asbestos-contaminated waste from their tracking systems for hazardous wastes under the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) code N220 and/or reports from licensed landfill operators.

The Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency (ASSEA) monitors the amount of asbestos waste that goes to landfill to track how much of Australia's hazardous asbestos legacy is remaining and support governments in decisions on asbestos waste management and landfill capacity.

The Asbestos Legacy

Current asbestos stocks in the built environment are estimated at **6 million tonnes** (range 5.5 to 7.1 million tonnes).

The largest product group estimates are for asbestos cement of which **54%** is cement pipes and **42%** is cement sheeting. The other **4%** is made up of roofing, flooring and lagging products.

Source: [Asbestos Stocks and Flows Legacy in Australia](#)

Headlines

- The best estimate of the quantity of ‘wrapped’ asbestos waste reported in **Australia in 2024-25** was about **591,000 tonnes**, a decrease of 1% from 2023-24.
- The quantity of ‘*all asbestos waste*’ including soil and rubble contaminated with ACM was about **1,670,000 tonnes**, an increase of 31% from 2023-24.
- Most jurisdictions are able to report quantities of wrapped asbestos-containing material (ACM, such as asbestos cement sheets) separately from waste contaminated with ACM (such as soil and rubble).
- Since 2006–07, reports of available data show a total of approximately **17.7 million tonnes** of asbestos-containing waste has been disposed of in Australia.

There are currently about 280* waste facilities that accept asbestos in Australia.

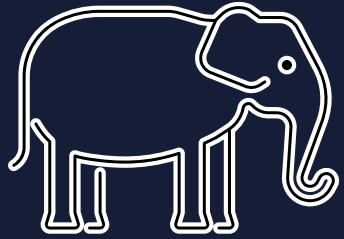
Accessibility to these sites is a key factor in enabling safe and lawful disposal.

* This number fluctuates over time as landfills reach capacity and are closed, disposal licences are not utilised, or new facilities come online.

Weight and volume comparisons

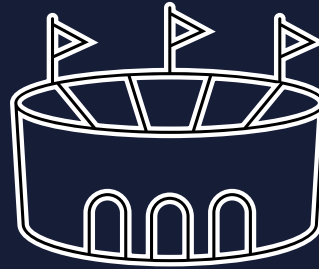
800kg = 1 cubic metre (m³)

The total quantity of asbestos waste disposed of in 2024-25, including soil and rubble contaminated with ACM, was about 1,670,000 tonnes (or 2,087,500m³). This equates to:



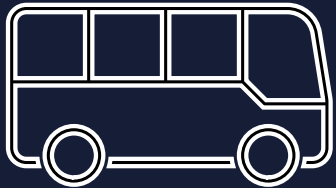
2,800
African elephants

African elephant – 600 kg



Filling
1.4 MCGs

Melbourne Cricket Ground – 1,500,000 m³



100
Public transit buses

Public transit bus – 16,000 kg



and **800** Olympic
swimming pools

Olympic-size swimming pool – 2,500 m³

DATA - Table 1 displays the best estimate of tonnes of ‘wrapped ACM’ disposed from 2006-07 up until 2024-25.

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Australia
2006-07	372	207,860	1,593	49,847	11,757	1,588	42,099	225	315,340
2007-08	24	211,184	1,639	44,772	17,602	1,009	35,768	5,947	317,944
2008-09	18,661	222,299	1,684	48,577	7,798	2,023	32,882	10,836	344,760
2009-10	170	227,936	1,712	67,598	5,916	332	50,543	12,286	366,492
2010-11	1,126	194,700	1,724	87,834	21,085	171	42,515	19,390	368,544
2011-12	4,757	207,300	1,758	101,048	22,828	14,917	61,050	12,100	425,757
2012-13	5,954	531,000	1,801	113,345	20,129	14,931	65,656	26,045	778,861
2013-14	6,680	420,000	1,810	120,728	15,991	14,972	74,046	29,237	683,464
2014-15	5,856	306,465	2,000	150,302	14,517	15,015	80,078	38,492	612,725
2015-16	68,405	508,156	5,982	145,102	9,224	15,085	101,636	38,724	892,314
2016-17	208,474	682,444	5,913	154,608	11,770	15,228	118,626	39,000	1,236,063
2017-18	94,293	1,158,050	5,225	149,873	17,302	5,059	154,520	31,886	1,616,207
2018-19	48,176	175,675	7,118	152,552	42,987	3,259	102,842	24,772	557,381
2019-20	17,741	294,123	17,435	126,105	35,694	4,094	178,670	24,165	698,028
2020-21	19,559	225,006	38,483	326,276	21,829	3,844	136,925	17,657	789,580
2021-22	13,622	167,782	47,398	188,466	45,455	4,244	243,418	20,679	731,064
2022-23	9,624	251,581	59,720	194,191	25,258	149	38,829	18,868	598,220
2023-24	6,752	248,794	12,281	204,328	20,564	11,663	71,072	23,963	599,418
2024-25	6,079	189,547	16,486	186,824	25,189	11,560	101,556	54,255	591,497

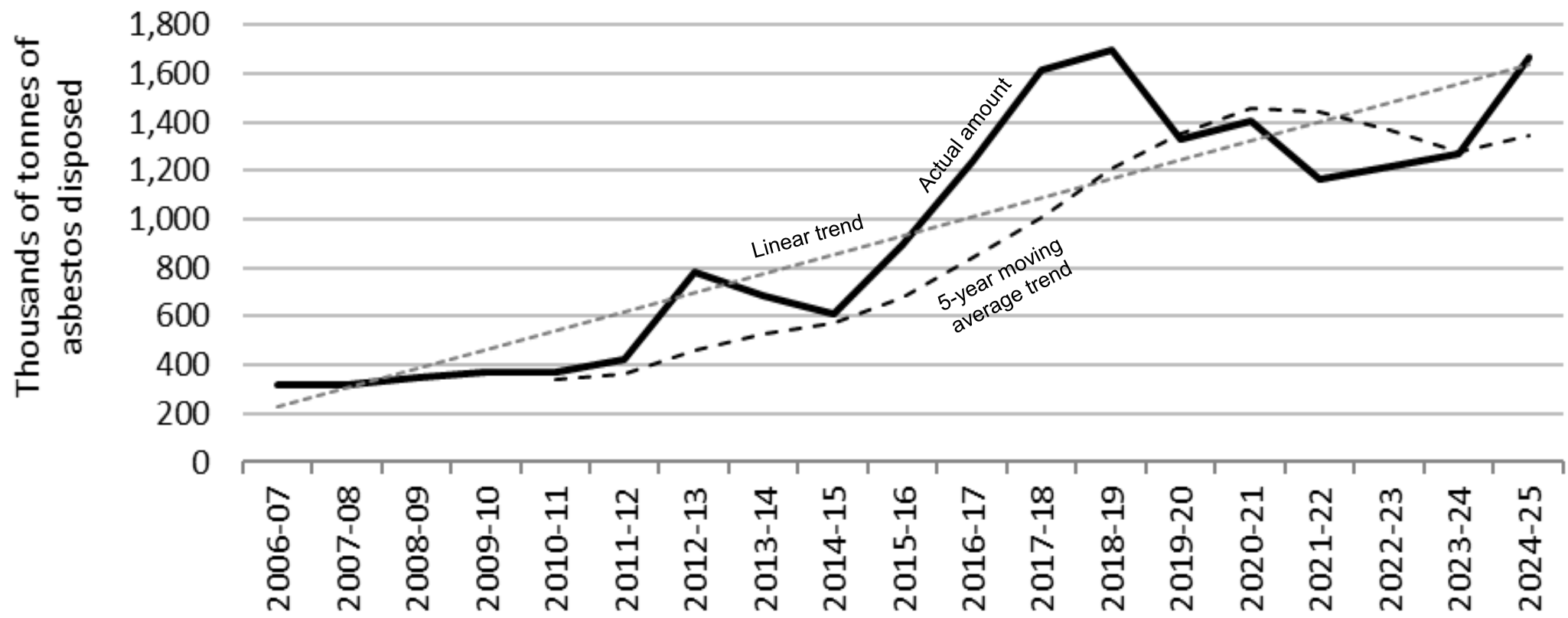
Key to data sources	
Numbers	Provided in collated form by the jurisdiction
Numbers	From Basel reports (based on calendar year overlapping last half of financial year)
Numbers	Collated from transport certificates
Numbers	Estimate only - extrapolated or interpolated
Numbers	Estimate based on population change x previous data

DATA - Table 2 displays the quantities of asbestos by reported type and by jurisdiction in 2024-25 (tonnes).

ASBESTOS TYPE	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld *	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
ACM only	6,100	189,500			25,200	11,600	101,600	54,300
ACM + waste contaminated with friable ACM				186,800				
ACM + waste contaminated with ACM			16,500	313,600				
Waste contaminated with ACM		790,200						
Waste contaminated with ACM only							158,000	
Notes:	Landfill data. Used for best estimate.	Waste and Resource Reporting Portal ACM only Used for best estimate.	Landfill data. Used for best estimate.	ACM + waste contaminated with friable ACM: Landfill data. Preferred for use over tracking system data. Used for best estimate. ACM + waste contaminated with asbestos: Hazardous waste tracking system (N220).	Hazardous waste tracking system. Used for best estimate.	Landfill data. Used for best estimate.	ACM only: Waste levy survey. Used for best estimate. Waste contaminated with ACM only: N120 to treatment code D19, which is for landfill disposal of soil contaminated with asbestos only.	Perth metro landfill data. Used for best estimate.

* Note that the two tonnage figures for Queensland overlap, as both include ACM. The tonnage values for NSW and Victoria, on the other hand, are distinct from each other.

DATA - Figure 1 illustrates the trends in asbestos waste generation in Australia over time from 2006-07 to 2024-25.



To keep the ‘actual amount’ trend line accurate, this chart includes soil and rubble contaminated with asbestos from NSW and Victoria. Corrections were made to 2023-24 data for Queensland and Victoria after new data was received.

On this updated basis, the total asbestos waste is about 31% higher than last year — primarily because NSW and Victoria added another 305,000 tonnes compared to the previous year. WA also reported a record 54,000 tonnes, an increase of 126% due to a change in how they report. Overall, this year’s total is almost back up to the big peak we saw in 2018–19.

Data Limitations

Due to the extensive data that is collected, errors sometimes occur, including incorrect coding of asbestos waste. Different states and territories also count asbestos waste in different ways:

- In the ACT, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and WA, only wrapped asbestos material is included in their reports.
- Queensland reports both wrapped asbestos and soil or rubble that has asbestos in it.
- NSW and the Northern Territory report both wrapped asbestos and contaminated soil, but NSW can also separate out the wrapped asbestos on its own.

There are inconsistencies between states and territories on what counts as “asbestos-contaminated” soil or rubble. For example, a strict interpretation of the definition of asbestos waste in NSW contributes to the fact that the quantities of asbestos waste reported in NSW are generally higher than in other jurisdictions.

Some types of asbestos waste are missing from the official data collection. This can include:

- debris from natural disasters,
- small or household loads that don’t need to be tracked in some places,
- asbestos that’s mixed into soil in most jurisdictions.

ASSEA recommends that all states and territories report wrapped asbestos separately from contaminated soil and rubble.

Doing this will make the data easier to compare and help us get a clearer picture of how much asbestos waste Australia is producing, so we can plan more effectively.