

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Asbestos Policy	1.0.1	December 2016
Date Adopted	Minute Number	Status
17 December 2014	3964	Major revision

### Purpose

This policy and related procedure aims to outline:

- the role of Council and other organisations in managing asbestos
- Council's relevant regulatory powers
- Council's approach to dealing with naturally occurring asbestos, sites contaminated by asbestos and emergencies or incidents
- general advice for residents on renovating homes that may contain asbestos
- Council's development approval process for developments that may involve asbestos and conditions of consent
- waste management and regulation procedures for asbestos waste in the Local Government Area (LGA)
- Council's approach to managing asbestos containing materials in council workplaces sources of further information.

### Scope

This policy and related procedure applies to all of the Greater Hume Shire Council of the Local Government Area within Council's jurisdiction. The policy and related procedure provides information for Council workers, the local community and wider public.

### Definitions

Provided in Appendix C of Asbestos Procedure.

### Policy Content

Greater Hume Shire Council acknowledges the serious health hazard of exposure to asbestos.

In Australia, asbestos was gradually phased out of building materials in the 1980s and the supply and installation of asbestos containing goods has been prohibited since 31 December 2003. Yet asbestos legacy materials still exist in many homes, buildings and other assets and infrastructure. It is estimated that one in three Australian homes contains asbestos

Where material containing asbestos is in a non-friable form (that is, cannot be crushed by hand into a powder), undisturbed and painted or otherwise sealed, it may remain safely in place. However, where asbestos containing material is broken, damaged, disturbed or mishandled, fibres can become loose and airborne posing a risk to health. Breathing in dust containing asbestos fibres can cause asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma.

It is often difficult to identify the presence of asbestos by sight. Where a material cannot be identified or is suspected to be asbestos, it is best to assume that the material is asbestos and take appropriate precautions. Further information about asbestos and the health impacts of asbestos can be found in the related Asbestos Procedure, Appendix A and website links to additional information are provided in Appendix B.

Council has an important dual role in minimising exposure to asbestos, as far as is reasonably practicable, for both:

- residents and the public within the Local Government Area
- workers (employees and other persons) in council workplaces.

Council's legislative functions for minimising the risks from asbestos apply in various scenarios including:

- as a responsible employer
- contaminated land management
- council land, building and asset management
- emergency response
- land use planning (including development approvals and demolition)
- management of naturally occurring asbestos
- regulation of activities (non-work sites)
- waste management and regulation.

The related Asbestos Procedure provides further asbestos information and details Council's management strategy for asbestos and asbestos-related risks.

### Council disclaimer

This policy and related procedure was formulated to be consistent with Council's legislative obligations and within the scope of Council's powers. This policy and related procedure should be read in conjunction with relevant legislation, guidelines and codes of practice. In the case of any discrepancies, the most recent legislation should prevail.

This policy and related procedure is based upon the *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils* developed by the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities to promote a consistent Local Government approach to asbestos management across NSW.

This policy and related procedure does not constitute legal advice. Legal advice should be sought in relation to particular circumstances and liability will not be accepted for losses incurred as a result of reliance on this policy and/or related procedure.

### **Links to Policy**

Asset Management Policy  
Complaints Handling Policy  
Emergency Planning Policy  
Employee Health Monitoring Policy  
Media Policy  
Risk Management Policy  
Work Health Safety Policy

### **Links to Procedure**

Asbestos Procedure

### **Links to Forms**

Provided in Asbestos Procedure.

### **References**

Local Government NSW: *Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Councils*

### **Responsibility**

Roles and Responsibilities are provided in the Procedure Instruction, Section 3 of the Asbestos Procedure.

**Document Author**

Risk & WHS Coordinator

**Relevant Legislation**

Provided in Appendix G of Asbestos Procedure.

**Associated Records**

Provided in Asbestos Procedure.