



28 May 2021

Chief Executive Officer

Dear colleague

## **NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ASBESTOS AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT 2019-2023 (NSP 2019-2023)**

Australia has one of the highest rates of asbestos-related diseases in the world, with approximately 4,000 deaths each year from past exposure to asbestos – more than double the number of annual Australian road deaths. Many public and commercial buildings, homes and infrastructure contain large amounts of ageing asbestos-containing materials (ACMs).

The National Strategic Plan is a long term framework aimed at ensuring a nationally consistent approach to asbestos awareness, management and removal. Coordinated by the Australian Government Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA), it outlines a phased approach to eliminating asbestos-related diseases in Australia.

In November 2019, ASEA released NSP 2019–2023 (Phase 2), which follows the progress of NSP 2014-2018 (Phase 1). The NSP 2019-2023 includes nine targets, which build on the previous plan's (NSP 2014-2018) progress in relation to asbestos policies and actions at all levels of government. NSP 2019-2023 can be downloaded from the ASEA website at the following link:

[https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11/ASEA\\_NSP2\\_ebrochure%28Nov19%29.pdf](https://www.asbestossafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11/ASEA_NSP2_ebrochure%28Nov19%29.pdf)

On 9 November 2020, the Western Australian Government endorsed targets one to seven of the NSP 2019-2023 (targets eight and nine are the responsibility of the Federal government), to identify and safely remove asbestos from publicly-owned buildings, if required. The NSP 2019-2023 will ensure government departments, agencies, local government and government enterprises (government organisations) identify and assess the risks associated with asbestos containing materials within government-controlled buildings, land and infrastructure.

In endorsing the NSP 2019-2023 targets, the Western Australian Government has agreed that government organisations will:

- identify and assess the risk of ACM in all facilities they own or occupy;
- develop and maintain risk based management plans for management of asbestos which include the removal of the **asbestos where required or feasible opportunities exist**;
- provide six and 12 monthly progress reports to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS), as lead agency, for submission to ASEA; and
- include information in its annual report on its progress in achieving the targets set out in their schedule.

With respect to target 3 — *Safe prioritised removal and effective waste management*, DMIRS will report to ASEA, as far as practicable, on the progress of the schedules on a six-monthly basis, noting that the management of low to medium risk ACMs in-situ is permitted and removal is not mandated. Where practicable, removal should be planned during opportunities for remedial works, such as refurbishment or upgrade works. Reporting to ASEA will therefore focus on the removal of high-risk asbestos, as identified by agencies from time to time.

ASEA has assured DMIRS that the NSP 2019-2023 does not impose strict deadlines for the removal of ACM by 2023. The year 2023 only indicates the end of the second stage of a phased approach to managing Australia's asbestos legacy.

DMIRS is the lead agency for the NSP 2019-2023 in Western Australia. All State and local government agencies and authorities are required to report on their progress against the targets to DMIRS. To assist local government agencies with their reporting requirements, DMIRS will collate their NSP 2019-2023 progress reports for submission to the national ASEA.

The first six and 12 monthly submissions should be sent to [nspaam@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:nspaam@dmirs.wa.gov.au) before the following dates:

- **21 January 2022:** 6 month progress report for 1 July 2021 to 31 December 2021.
- **15 July 2022:** 12 month annual report for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 (including the information from the 6 month progress report).

Prior to submission to DMIRS, you or a delegated authority within your organisation will be required to approve the content of your six monthly and yearly NSP 2019-2023 reporting templates.

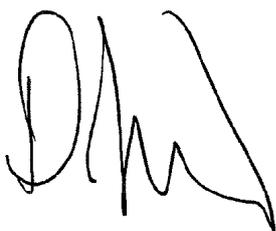
To assist organisations with their reporting requirements, DMIRS has developed a webpage [www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/nsp](http://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/nsp) which contains:

- the NSP 2019-2023 reporting template;
- NSP 2019-2023 Frequently Asked Questions;
- Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) NSP 2019-2023 information; and
- DMIRS and ASEA contacts.

Should you require further information or have any queries regarding this reporting requirement, please feel free to contact DMIRS via [nspaam@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:nspaam@dmirs.wa.gov.au).

Thank you for your support and commitment to this whole-of-government initiative.

Yours sincerely



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David Smith  
DIRECTOR GENERAL