

# ASBESTOS POLICY

## STRATEGIC POLICY

**Responsible Department:** Cabonne Infrastructure

**Responsible Section:** Transport Infrastructure

**Responsible Officer:** Department Leader - Transport Infrastructure

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### Objective

Cabonne Council has a significant role in reducing risk to the community posed by asbestos, including the legacy of asbestos in building materials and land contaminated with asbestos, as well as naturally occurring asbestos.

Using the Model Asbestos Policy developed by the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW on behalf of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities Working Group, a draft Asbestos Policy has been prepared for Cabonne

The document applies to council employees, councillors, contractors and members of the community.

### Introduction

Council is required by the Office of Local Government to develop and adopt an Asbestos Policy based on the NSW Model Policy.

The policy provides guidance and information to council employees and the local community regarding health and safety issues relating to management of asbestos.

The Asbestos Policy identifies how Cabonne Council will manage asbestos and provide information to the community.

The policy addresses the environmental management recommended for the following forms of asbestos that may occur in the council area:

- Naturally occurring asbestos
- Asbestos products in buildings and other infrastructure
- Asbestos contamination resulting from disturbance of the above (including illegal dumping of building materials)

The Asbestos policy applies to all Cabonne Council employees, councillors, contractors and sub-contractors, volunteers, tenants, and persons attending council buildings and sites.

## **Policy**

Cabonne Council acknowledges the serious health hazard to the community from exposure to asbestos. Council has a significant role in minimising exposure to asbestos, as far as is reasonably practical, for residents and the public within the Cabonne Council local government area.

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

This policy and the associated Asbestos Management Policy 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 regulatory procedures for asbestos waste in the Cabonne Council local government area
- Council's approach to managing asbestos containing materials in council workplaces
- Sources of further information.

The Asbestos Policy and Management Policy provide information for council workers, the local community and the wider public. The policy applies to friable, non-friable (bonded) and naturally occurring asbestos (where applicable) within the Cabonne Council local government area and outlines council's commitment and responsibilities in relation to safely managing asbestos.

## Responsibilities

**General Manager:** responsible for overall control and implementation of the policy.

**Deputy General Managers & Leaders:** responsible for the control of the policy and procedures within their area of responsibility.

**Supervisors:** responsible to ensure all employees under their control are aware of and comply with the provisions of this policy and the associate Asbestos Management Policy.

**Employees:** have a duty of care to raise with their manager or supervisor any situation to which this policy or the associated Asbestos Management Policy may apply.

**Contractors and sub-contractors:** all contractors and sub-contractors engaged to perform work on council premises of property are required to comply with council's policy and procedures, and to observe directions from designated officers of council on health and safety protocol.

**Councillors & visitors to council buildings and sites:** required to comply with council's policies and procedures, and to observe any directions from designated officers of council on health and safety protocol.

## Definitions

**Asbestos:** means the asbestiform varieties of mineral silicates belonging to the serpentinite or amphibole groups of rock forming minerals including the following:

- (a) Actinolite asbestos
- (b) Grunerite (or amosite) asbestos (brown)
- (c) Anthophyllite asbestos
- (d) Chrysotile asbestos (white)
- (e) Crocidolite asbestos (blue)
- (f) Tremolite asbestos
- (g) A mixture that contains 1 or more of the minerals referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f).

**Friable asbestos:** means material that is in powder form or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry, and which contains asbestos.

**Naturally occurring asbestos:** means the natural geological occurrence of asbestos minerals found in association with geological deposits including rock, sediment or soil.

**Non-friable asbestos:** means material containing asbestos that is not friable asbestos, including material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound. (Note – Non-friable asbestos may become friable asbestos through deterioration).

## References

Model Asbestos Policy for NSW councils (Office of Local Government) 2012

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Contaminated Land Management Act 1997

Local Government Act 1993

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Cabonne Asbestos Management Policy – Located in council’s Electronic Records Management System (Doc ID 726207)

## History

Minute No.	Summary of Changes	New Version Date
16/05/34 - 1	First adopted	24 May 2016
18/05/20	Adopted without change in accordance with S165(4) of the Local Government Act 1993	22 May 2018
22/11/15	Transferred on to new policy template and readopted in accordance with S165(4) of the Local Government Act 1993	22 November 2022