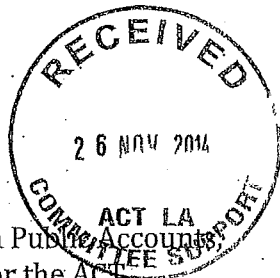


The Secretary
Dr. Andréa Cullen
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA ACT 2601



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| A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE | |
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Dear Dr. Cullen

We would like to make a submission to the Committee on the **inquiry into proposed Appropriation (Loose-fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication) Bill 2014-15** based on my particular situation; however, this also applies to a number of other home owners with whom we have been in contact.

We had completed a large renovation on my residence just over six years ago at a substantial cost. At that time, ACTPLA had failed to advise us on any asbestos issues relating to our home.

The Asbestos Task Force, in October of this year, sent out one of its contractors who found two positive samples out of three, in the sub-floor area of our home. **No** traces of asbestos were found in any areas inside our home.

Being in the property and construction industries for over twenty years, we cannot understand the logic in the government's approach in wanting to demolish houses like ours.

We have sought advice from the MBA, HIA and the asbestos removal industries and they had advised us that our sub-floor area can easily be cleaned out, retested and deemed safe.

The issues we seek to address are:

- The Task Force says it will look at each home on a case by case basis. This has not been the situation regarding our home, but rather, it has taken the "one size fits all" approach by concluding that all Mr. Fluffy homes will be demolished regardless of its circumstance with no other course of action for new or extensively renovated homes, nor homes which possess minimal threat, such as ours,
- Each home be assessed individually on the severity of asbestos in them and homes with minimal or traces of the substance be cleaned out by A grade asbestos removalists, retested and deemed safe.
- The list/register of Mr Fluffy homes be withheld from the market. We see no other reason for this list to be released to the market other than to bully affected home owners into accepting the government's buy-back plan.

If safety is an issue, the following would resolve these issues:

The asbestos tests carried out, would have determined the affected areas in each home.

Stickers on meter and circuit boards.

Owners duty of care.

Industry training and its duty of care.

In our situation and with others in a similar situation, the implications regarding tradespeople and others who have worked on our homes able to make vexatious claims on us, once this Mr Fluffy list of homes are released to the market.

- The government seek advice from institutions like the MBA, HIA and licenced A grade asbestos assessors and removalists on the severity of the condition of each home and take action accordingly.

- Implications for us, regarding our mortgage lenders devaluing our home to its land value.

- Task Force issues:

We have not been able to secure an appointment with senior management of the Task Force to discuss our individual case.

We have not been allocated a case contact personnel for our home.

Task Force contact through Canberra Connect is not acceptable.

- The 30 June 2015 deadline be extended to give home owners and the government time to think through and correctly plan the entire process.

The above will save the government a few hundred million dollars and have a win-win situation with Mr Fluffy home owners and its budget.

We look forward to the opportunity to meet with the Committee personally.

Regards

de Salis