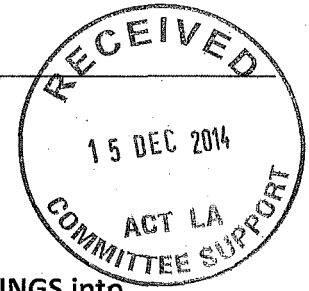




**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),  
Nicole Lawder MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS into**

**Appropriation (Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication) Bill 2014/15**

Asked by Mary Porter MLA on 28 November 2014: Minister for Territory and Municipal Services took on notice the following question(s):

In relation to –

Can the Committee be provided with a copy of the EPA guidelines used for the disposal of Asbestos.

**SHANE RATTENBURY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–**

Attached is a copy of the EPA guidelines for the removal of Asbestos.

In addition the Taskforce has developed a draft code of practice for the safe demolition of affected homes that builds upon the National Code of Practice for Removal of Asbestos with ACT-specific requirements and suggested procedures to control the safety and cost of asbestos removal and demolition of affected homes.

Minimum standards and methodologies will be reinforced through procurement processes that will ensure contractors engaged in the demolition and remediation works will be subject to active assurance processes applied to other ACT Government capital works projects.

As is currently the case, friable asbestos and contaminated waste will be properly disposed of by licensed asbestos removalists, and demolition waste will be disposed of in appropriately equipped and licensed facilities such as the West Belconnen Resource Management Facility.

Rubble will be tipped under supervision of a licensed asbestos removalist, and subject to dust suppression. Waste will be covered with clean soil at the end of each day, and will ultimately be capped and grassed to prevent erosion and subsequent fibre release in accordance with EPA requirements.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date:

11/12/14

By the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA



## Information sheet 5 – Requirements for the transport and disposal of asbestos contaminated wastes\*

The provisions below apply to any activity that involves the transportation, collection, storage, or disposal of any type of asbestos waste, regardless of whether the activity is required to be licensed.

### **Transportation requirements** for asbestos waste are:

- Any type of asbestos waste must not be transported unless it is conveyed in a covered leak proof vehicle so as to prevent any spillage or dispersal of the waste.
- If asbestos waste that is in the form of stabilised asbestos waste in bonded matrix is to be transported and the waste is not stored in a bag in accordance with the requirements for collection and storage (see below), the waste must be wetted before it is transported.
- Any vehicle used to transport any type of asbestos waste must be cleaned before leaving the landfill site at which the waste is disposed of, so as to ensure that all residual asbestos waste is removed from the vehicle.

### **Collection and storage requirements** for asbestos waste are:

- Asbestos waste that is in the form of asbestos fibre and dust waste must be covered in such a manner as to prevent the emission of any dust.
- Asbestos waste that is in the form of asbestos fibre and dust waste must not be collected and stored except in accordance with the following procedures:
  - the waste must be collected and stored in impermeable bags
  - each bag must be made of heavy duty low density polyethylene of at least 0.2mm thickness, and have dimensions of no more than 1.2 metre in height and 0.9 metre in width
  - each bag must be sealed in accordance with the NOHSC Code of Practice for the Safe Removal Of Asbestos 2nd Edition guidelines, and contain no more than 25kg of waste and
  - each bag must be marked with the words 'CAUTION ASBESTOS' in letters that are of not less than 40mm and that comply with Australian Standard AS 1319— *Safety Signs for the Occupational Environment*.

- If asbestos waste in any form is stored in a bag, the following procedures must be followed:
  - the bag must be placed in a leak proof container that is used only for the purposes of storing asbestos waste
  - the container must be marked with the words 'DANGER-ASBESTOS WASTE ONLY— AVOID CREATING DUST' in letters that are of not less than 50mm and that comply with Australian Standard referred to in paragraph above and
  - the container must have a close fitting sealed cover so as to prevent any spillage or dispersal of the waste.
- Asbestos waste in any form must not be stored except in accordance with the following procedures:
  - the waste must be stored in a secure area so as to prevent entry by unauthorised persons and to prevent the risk of environmental harm and
  - the waste must, if it is practicable to do so, be stored separately from other types of waste.
- If asbestos waste that is in the form of stabilised asbestos waste in bonded matrix is stored otherwise than in a bag (as detailed above), the following procedures must be followed:
  - if it is practicable to do so, the waste must be wetted so as to prevent the emission of any dust
  - in wetting the asbestos waste, care must be taken to ensure that the wetting process does not cause any emission of dust or lead to any discharge of polluted water and
  - the waste must be kept covered at all times.

### **Disposal requirements** for asbestos waste are as follows:

- Asbestos waste in any form must be disposed of only at a landfill site that may lawfully receive the waste.
- Disposal of asbestos waste in any form must be by way of burial.
- Before disposal of the asbestos waste, arrangements must be made with the occupier of the landfill site for the purposes of ensuring that the asbestos waste will be covered:



- initially to a depth of at least 0.5 metre, and
- finally to a depth of at least 1 metre (in the case of stabilised asbestos waste in bonded matrix) or 3 metres (in the case of asbestos fibre and dust waste) beneath the planned final land surface of the landfill site.
- The asbestos waste must:
  - be disposed of in accordance with the arrangements in the paragraph above and
  - be buried to the initial depth on the same day it is received at the landfill site.
- In disposing of asbestos waste in any form at a landfill site, the waste must:
  - be unloaded in such a manner as to avoid the creation of dust
  - not be compacted before it is covered and
  - not come into contact with any earthmoving equipment at any time.

This Information Sheet prohibits the use of asbestos waste in any form as road making material.

\* Information reproduced in part from the Environmental Guidelines: Assessment, Classification & Management of Liquid & Non-liquid Wastes, Storing, handling, transporting and disposing of asbestos wastes, NSW EPA

## For more information

Contact the Environment Protection Authority by calling Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

Go to [environment.act.gov.au](http://environment.act.gov.au) for more information relating to Environment Protection

- [Contaminated Land](#)