



**Australian Government**

**Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency**

**Comcare**

# 2013 National Asbestos Forum

**25 November 2013  
Hilton Sydney**



# Asbestos disposal: do the current arrangements work?

**Bret Baker**

Vice President

Asbestos Removal Contractors Association NSW

**Asbestos Disposal: do the current arrangements work?**

**NOT Always**



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# What evidence do we have indicating that the current disposal arrangements are not always working?

- Complaints - community and industry
- Transportation of asbestos waste great distance to find cheaper disposal
- Illegal Dumping – commercial and domestic



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# So what is the community complaining about?



I don't know...how...where??

Rejected Load

Too Expensive

2013 National Asbestos Forum

# So what is the community complaining about?



I don't know...how...where??

Rejected Load

Too Expensive

2013 National Asbestos Forum

# What is industry complaining about?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# What is industry complaining about?



**Tipping Fees & Waste Levy - Waste is sometimes transported great distances to save on costs**

**2013 National Asbestos Forum**



# What is industry complaining about?



**High tipping costs is a disincentive to legally tipping**

**2013 National Asbestos Forum**

# What is industry complaining about?



Landfill practices are poor – Why do we bother?

2013 National Asbestos Forum

# What is industry complaining about?



Recycling Facility Practices – Regeneration of Asbestos

2013 National Asbestos Forum

# Who regulates the disposal of asbestos?

Each State & Territory  
Eg NSW - EPA & Councils



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# Do any of the current arrangements work?

YES

- Education
- Funding Programs
- Auditing



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# What else is being done?

NSW Government posted a Media Release on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 proposing the *Householders' Asbestos Disposal Scheme* for a trial period of 12 months.

The scheme proposes a trial for waiving the **waste levy** on asbestos and also a contribution of \$50 per tonne towards removal, wrapping, transport and disposal costs at participating Councils until the grants allocated quota has been reached.

Councils and organisations have until 9<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to submit an application to be part of the scheme.

This \$3 Million proposed trial is funded from the **Waste Less, Recycle More** initiative that has a funding pool of \$465.7M.

*Has anyone had a real close look at this scheme?*



## 2013 National Asbestos Forum



### WASTE LESS RECYCLE MORE INITIATIVE – HOUSEHOLDERS’ ASBESTOS DISPOSAL SCHEME TRIAL

#### **Purpose**

To invite councils and businesses to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in a Householders’ Asbestos Disposal Scheme trial.

#### **Issue**

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is calling for Expressions of Interest from councils to participate in a \$3 million Householders’ Asbestos Disposal Scheme trial.

The Householders’ Asbestos Disposal Scheme will be funded as part of the \$50 million illegal dumping funding under the NSW Government’s *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative.

*Waste Less, Recycle More* is a five year \$465.7 million initiative to reduce waste and increase resource recovery by supporting councils, industry and the community to provide a comprehensive approach to improve the management of waste materials in NSW.

The trial will investigate innovative approaches to reduce the cost of asbestos disposal and to assist home renovators dispose of small residential amounts of asbestos more easily.

As part of the trial, the EPA will trial a waiver of the waste levy on asbestos in participating council areas and will contribute \$50 per tonne towards the costs of removing and transporting wrapped asbestos that is disposed of as part of the scheme, for 12 months from next year.

This trial is about minimising the burden on householders who want to do the right thing with their asbestos waste and discouraging illegal dumping by unlicensed contractors by reducing the financial advantage.

The trials will run at selected councils and businesses across the waste levy and non-levy paying areas and results will be evaluated by independent experts to inform future decisions to incentives proper asbestos disposal into the future. There will be 3 trials:

1. Greater Metropolitan Area: up to 6 proposals run by councils and/or businesses will be funded, each for between 1,000 and 5,000 tonnes;
2. Regional Regulated Area: up to 4 programs run by councils will be funded, each for between 500 and 1,000 tonnes;
3. Non-levy-paying area: up to 4 programs run by councils will be funded, each for between 500 and 1,000 tonnes.

Expressions of Interest are open until 9 December 2013 for councils who want to be involved in the pilot trial with a view to commencing the trial in January 2014.

#### **Actions**

Councils are encouraged to submit Expressions of Interest for the EPA to consider. Further details of the trial will be decided with successful participants following the EOI process.

#### **Where to go for further information**

For more information or to apply visit: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/wasteless.htm>

# What else could be done?

***Proposal 1: Address disposal of asbestos on a National basis.***

*Move towards National Consistency to come into line with the Goals of National Harmonisation for Work Health & Safety?*

*Currently the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Awareness and Management “does not advocate compelling the states and territories to undertake this task.”*

***Proposal 2: Trial waiving the entire cost on disposal fees relating to Asbestos Products. Do this on a Nation Wide basis for all sectors whilst also encouraging Removal Best Practice***



2013 National Asbestos Forum

If free tipping was available, would this following event have occurred?



2013 National Asbestos Forum



# Would this have occurred?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

or this?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

or this?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# or this?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

or this?



2013 National Asbestos Forum

***Take a coordinated approach  
&  
Do not make compliance too costly***



2013 National Asbestos Forum

# ***QUESTIONS ?***



2013 National Asbestos Forum