

**Submission
No 14**

INQUIRY INTO LOOSE FILL ASBESTOS INSULATION

Organisation: Boorowa Council

Date received: 30/10/2014



Reference: 2.6.9/1

30 October 2014.

Joint Select Committee on Loose Fill Asbestos Installation
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

Dear Sir/Madam

Boorowa Council Submission on inquiry into loose fill asbestos insulation

I have attached for your reference a copy of Boorowa Councils submission in relation to the inquiry into the loose fill asbestos insulation.

I am aware that New South Wales Government has appointed a joint select committee to inquire into and report on the loose fill asbestos insulation in homes in New South Wales.

As you will see from our submission, Boorowa Council is of the view that the identification and location of loose fill asbestos is important for the health and safety of the local community and the state as a whole. Boorowa Council believe that the roles and responsibilities to monitor, administer and police the requirements set out by the Joint Select Committee should not sit with Local Government.

It is critical that the NSW Government takes action in relation to the loose fill asbestos insulation and the Boorowa Council believe the administration should sit within a centralised body.

I thank you for taking Boorowa Councils submission into consideration for the inquiry and reporting on loose fill asbestos insulation and should you require any further input please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Anthony McMahon
General Manager

Recommendation	Boorowa Council Response
<p>1. That a joint select committee be appointed to inquire into and report on loose fill asbestos insulation, also referred to as "Mr Fluffy" insulation, in homes in New South Wales, and in particular:</p> <p>(a) The number and location of homes affected by loose fill asbestos insulation</p> <p>(b) The actions taken by governments to deal with loose fill asbestos insulation in other jurisdictions</p> <p>(c) The role of state and local governments to advise and assist home owners and occupiers to reduce the risks posed by loose fill asbestos insulation</p> <p>(d) The requirements for property owners to notify potential buyers, renters, tradespeople and emergency services officers regarding the presence of loose fill asbestos insulation in their property, and</p> <p>(e) Any other related matter</p>	<p>Supported: 1a: Council supports the appointing of a Joint Select committee to inquire and report on the number and location of homes affected by the loose fill asbestos insulation.</p> <p>1b: Council support the review of actions taken by other jurisdictions, in particular, the ACT, where the loose fill asbestos insulation affected a number of properties. Consideration should be made in the report as to the impacts and benefits of these actions on the residents of the affected properties.</p> <p>Supported in principle: 1c: Reference material, information on handling asbestos and removal requirements are currently held by NSW Workcover in a centralised location on the internet. Boorowa Council support the continuation of this centralised point of reference material on the internet and the staffing of the enquiry line with existing experienced and knowledgeable people. To have this knowledge transferred to a local government level would require considerable training and overheads that would be better serviced within existing government bodies.</p> <p>1d: Boorowa Council support the requirements to have the information about properties with loose fill asbestos insulation registered and made available to potential buyers, renters, tradespeople and emergency services. Again, the Boorowa Council recommends this be held in a centralised database that would be easily accessible by interested parties. If the database was held by local government then it would incur greater cost to the community to administer and to ensure that the data was readily accessible and up to date.</p> <p>1e: Boorowa Council strongly support this program and the inquiry into the loose fill asbestos insulation and will support the development of a centralised solution to provide information, reporting and monitoring of the inspection program and requirements for the future.</p>
<p>2. That the committee report by 16 February 2015.</p>	<p>Supported: 2: Council supports the development of a report to be provided by the 16th February 2015</p>