



# Mount Ousley interchange

## Asbestos management factsheet

March 2025



Australian Government

BUILDING AUSTRALIA



NSW  
GOVERNMENT



Transport for NSW acknowledges the Dharawal and Wodi Wodi people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and pays respect to Elders past and present.

The Australian and NSW governments are investing in a new interchange on the M1 Princes Motorway at the base of Mount Ousley to improve connectivity, safety and efficiency for those travelling through the gateway to Wollongong.

### Asbestos found on the Mount Ousley interchange project site

Excavation and clearing work carried out as part of the project has resulted in the discovery of asbestos-containing material (ACM) in some locations, including areas next to Dumfries Avenue, Mount Ousley Road and the M1 Princes Motorway. Further asbestos is likely to be found in these and other locations as work continues and we open more work zones.

Discovering ACM is not an unusual occurrence on road construction projects, as it was common for asbestos to be used in a range of building and construction material up until 1987. ACM is one of the most common types of soil contamination in Australia, in part due to illegal dumping, landfilling or poor past management practices during demolition or construction of building or services containing asbestos.

### Types of asbestos

There are two forms of asbestos:

- non-friable (bonded): asbestos that is mixed with cement or other bonding materials. Asbestos in this form, and in good condition, is likely to be a low risk to health.

- friable: asbestos that can be crumbled, pulverised or turned into a powder by hand. These asbestos fibres can be a health risk if they go into the air and are breathed in.

Both forms of asbestos have been found on the project site, with the majority being non-friable.

### How are we managing asbestos?

The appropriate management of ACM is a key priority for the project. Transport for NSW and Fulton Hogan are working in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and SafeWork NSW guidelines to ensure we manage and remove asbestos according to our environmental and health obligations.

The potential for asbestos material was identified in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF). To view the REF, visit our interactive portal at <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/mount-ousley-interchange/project-documents-mount-ousley-interchange>

We have controls in place as part of the project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Contaminated Land Management Sub-plan, and Unexpected Contaminated Land and Asbestos Finds Procedure.

The following safety procedures are used to manage and remove asbestos:

- work stops immediately when material suspected to contain asbestos is found and the area is isolated. Signage is erected to ensure people/plant do not enter and disturb the area

- a Licensed Asbestos Assessor is engaged to inspect the site to confirm the presence of ACM and to monitor and control its removal
- residents in the immediate vicinity are notified that asbestos removal is occurring and how the process is being managed, in accordance with WHS Regulations
- all ACM is loaded, transported and disposed of, off-site at licensed facilities by specially trained and licensed personnel wearing appropriate personal protective equipment. An exclusion zone is in operation during removal
- following ACM removal, the retained area of soil undergoes further sampling and laboratory testing to confirm it is free of ACM contamination. A clearance certificate is then issued by the licensed asbestos assessor in accordance with Safework requirements.

## How is dust being managed?

Impacts to air quality are managed in accordance with the project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Air Quality Management subplan, and Environment Protection Licence (EPL) issued by the EPA.

Dust monitoring is undertaken for the duration of the project and includes weather monitoring, visual observations and dust deposition gauges, which are sampled and analysed regularly to ensure no dust levels caused by the project do not exceed acceptable levels. If an exceedance is recorded and attributed to the project, construction methods are reviewed to prevent this from occurring again.

There are stringent air quality monitoring requirements when an area is confirmed to contain ACM.

During removal of ACM, water sprays are used to dampen the material to suppress dust, and air quality monitoring is carried out by a qualified and experienced occupational hygienist using specially designed air sampling pumps that surround the removal area. Where there is a risk of potential wind erosion and water spray is unable to dampen material effectively, the affected area is sprayed with a soil binding agent (polymer). During high winds, work practices are assessed and, where required, modified or stopped.

All air monitoring results from testing during asbestos removal to date have been reported below the lowest detectable limit of 0.01 fibres/mL (equivalent to ~10 fibres per 100 grid fields) of air as required, and in accordance with WHS Regulations and the Code of Practice; *How to remove asbestos*.

## On-site management of ACM

ACM found as part of work for the Mount Ousley interchange is currently being transported and disposed of off-site at licensed facilities.

In certain circumstances, the most effective method of remediation is to manage ACM on-site. This would involve securing the material safely in an underground cell at an approved location and at a depth where the material will pose no environmental or human health risks.

In the event on-site management of ACM is considered appropriate, we will provide residents in the area with more information.

For more information, please visit [safework.nsw.gov.au](http://safework.nsw.gov.au)

## Need more information?

More information about managing asbestos can be found on the EPA's website

<https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/industrial-waste/asbestos-waste> and at

<https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/asbestos>, <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/asbestos>

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us on:



1800 792 918



[MountOusleyinterchange@fultonhogan.com.au](mailto:MountOusleyinterchange@fultonhogan.com.au)

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 792 918.