

Appendix C:

Audit scope and method

Scope of this audit

Who we examined

We examined the following agencies:

Agency	Key responsibilities
EPA	Victoria's environmental regulator.
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Makes waste system policy and oversees its implementation. Manages and regulates a public land estate of approximately 4 million hectares.
Parks Victoria	Manages approximately 4 million hectares of public land. Has a duty to minimise the risk of harm to people and the environment from asbestos dumped on this land.
WorkSafe Victoria	Regulates the management of asbestos, including asbestos removal, in the workplace. Also responsible for licensing professional asbestos removalists.
Sustainability Victoria	Responsible for developing and delivering the Asbestos Disposal Management Plan.

Our audit objective

To determine whether responsible agencies have effective measures in place to reduce the illegal disposal of asbestos.

What we examined

- Data collection and information sharing.
- Communication and engagement with the public.
- Barriers to legal disposal.
- Compliance and enforcement measures.
- Asbestos Disposal Management Plan.

Conducting this audit

Assessing performance

To form our conclusion against our objective we used the used the following lines of inquiry and associated evaluation criteria.

Line of inquiry	Criteria
1. Do responsible agencies collect, share and use data to inform the design of controls to minimise the illegal disposal of asbestos?	1.1 Agencies collect relevant and reliable data on the illegal disposal of asbestos that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timely • accurate; and • complete.
	1.2 Agencies share relevant and reliable data on the illegal disposal of asbestos.
	1.3 Agencies use relevant and reliable data to design effective, risk-based controls that minimise the illegal disposal of asbestos.
	1.4 Agencies collaborate on the design and delivery of controls that are effective in minimising the illegal disposal of asbestos.
2. Do responsible agencies implement and report on risk-based compliance and enforcement activities and use outcomes to reduce the illegal disposal of asbestos?	2.1 Agencies have policies and procedures in place that set out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responsibilities for regulating the illegal disposal of asbestos • risk-based strategies to regulate the illegal disposal of asbestos.
	2.2 Agencies actively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor compliance with regulatory requirements • enforce compliance with regulatory requirements • report publicly on compliance outcomes.
	2.3 Agencies use compliance and enforcement outcomes to inform the design and implementation of controls to minimise the illegal disposal of asbestos.
3. Do responsible agencies provide accessible, clear and targeted communication to stakeholders on the illegal disposal of asbestos?	3.1 Agencies have awareness and education campaigns in place on the illegal disposal of asbestos that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are easily accessible • are clearly communicated • are targeted at key stakeholder groups including the public, business owners, industry trades and other government agencies • provide information on the risks associated with asbestos • provide information on the safe and legal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal and packaging of asbestos • transportation and storage of asbestos • disposal of asbestos.
	3.2 Agency staff are trained to ensure accurate information is provided to stakeholders on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the risks associated with asbestos • how to remove, transport and dispose of asbestos safely • how to respond to incidents of illegal disposal of asbestos.

Line of inquiry

Criteria

4. Is there an accessible and affordable network of landfill, storage and transfer sites for the safe and legal disposal of asbestos?	4.1 Existing and planned landfill, storage and transfer sites for the legal disposal of asbestos are easily accessible. The capacity of existing and planned landfill, storage and transfer sites for the legal disposal of asbestos meets Victoria's current and future needs. Landfill, storage and transfer site costs for the legal disposal of asbestos: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are affordable• are consistently applied• are clearly communicated to stakeholders• do not act as a barrier to the legal disposal of asbestos. Sustainability Victoria is effectively implementing the Asbestos Disposal Management Plan (ADMP) and has in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a governance framework that provides strategic direction and clearly establishes relevant roles and responsibilities.• a risk management framework that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• comprehensively identifies relevant risks• assesses the likelihood and impact of risks occurring• develops relevant controls and risk treatment options and takes mitigating action when required• actively monitors and reports on risks.• regular monitoring and reporting processes that track implementation progress and achievement of outcomes.• a planned evaluation once the ADMP is implemented to determine if objectives have been met.
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Our methods

As part of the audit we:

- examined documentation the audited agencies gave us
 - interviewed key staff
 - conducted a voluntary, anonymous survey with Victoria's 79 municipal councils.
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Our survey

In April 2023 we surveyed Victoria's 79 councils to collect information on how they managed asbestos disposal in their municipality. We received responses from 67 councils.

We used the survey results to collect contextual information about:

- the frequency and amount of asbestos dumping in municipalities
- the costs to councils to clean up dumped asbestos
- asbestos remaining in the built environment
- perceived drivers of asbestos dumping
- councils' use of enforcement actions in response to asbestos dumping.

Where councils left a response to a question blank, we have interpreted this to mean they did not know the answer to that question.

Compliance

We conducted our audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* and ASAE 3500 Performance Engagements to obtain reasonable assurance to provide a basis for our conclusion.

We complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements related to assurance engagements.

We also provided a copy of the report to the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Cost and time The full cost of the audit and preparation of this report was \$530,000.
The duration of the audit was 9 months from initiation to tabling.
