

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Mansion to the Minister for Parks and Wildlife:

#### Asbestos

1. Please provide details of any programs conducted in 2014-15 to detect asbestos in government owned and leased premises.
2. Was any asbestos posing a public health risk detected and if so what remedial action has been undertaken?
3. Will any relevant programs continue in 2015-16?

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**1. Please provide details of any programs conducted in 2014-15 to detect asbestos in government owned and leased premises.**

- The Commission conducted an inspection of all its facilities for the purpose of identifying asbestos and developing asbestos registers in 2013-14 through the Repairs and Maintenance program.
- Material that was not tested but was assumed to contain asbestos by qualified asbestos assessors was identified as asbestos in the registers.
- Funds were allocated under the 2014-15 Repairs and Maintenance program to conduct additional asbestos testing, where necessary, prior to and during the upgrade and maintenance of its facilities.

**2. Was any asbestos posing a public health risk detected and if so what remedial action has been undertaken?**

- Asbestos containing material (ACM) has been found in 31 parks and reserves throughout the Northern Territory.
- The asbestos identified includes: building materials in constructed ranger stations, public facilities and historical buildings; and ground surface debris and contaminated soil associated with old maintenance and demolition practices and the relocation of material debris from Cyclone Tracy and World War II
- Asbestos material that was classified in asbestos registers with a high risk by asbestos assessors has been removed by licensed asbestos removalists.
- The Parks and Wildlife Commission developed an Asbestos Management Policy to address the asbestos found within parks.
- Asbestos registers and management plans are being maintained under the policy.
- Under the management plans, priority is given to the removal of visible ground surface debris, and the repair or removal of asbestos in buildings in association with other programmed maintenance works.
- Surface asbestos debris has been removed from areas within the: George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens; Rapid Creek Beach foreshore; Charles Darwin National Park; Howard Springs Nature Park; Eley National Park; Hatches Creek; Finke Gorge ranger station; Ormiston Gorge ranger station; Bullita ranger station; Trephina

Gorge ranger station; Alice Springs Telegraph Station; Barrow Creek Telegraph Station; Tennant Creek Telegraph Station; and the Serpentine Chalet.

- Asbestos contaminated soil was identified at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens with more than 530 cubic metres of contaminated soil excavated during works projects, removed to the Shoal Bay waste containment site.
- The Commission expended \$557 271 for asbestos related works to 31 March 2015 through the 2014-15 Repairs and Maintenance program: \$24 364 for the Davenport Lytwelepeny / Ranges National Park, \$32 108 for the Bullita Station Gregory National Park, \$7 518 for the Rapid Creek foreshore, and \$493 281 for the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens.
- Air monitoring results conducted by independent asbestos assessors during asbestos related works have all shown no detectable levels of air borne asbestos fibres.

### **3. Will any relevant programs continue in 2015-16?**

- The Commission will continue to maintain asbestos registers and management plans in 2015-16.
- Under the 2015-16 Repairs and Maintenance program, \$230 000 has been allocated for the remediation of asbestos within parks and reserves.