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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK**

This is National Asbestos Awareness Week. As part of its efforts to raise awareness of this material, Coonamble Shire Council brings to your attention that one in three homes have asbestos-containing materials in them. This figure could be even higher in Coonamble Shire where most homes have been built before 1990.

The Environmental Protection Authority suggests to anyone thinking about making renovations to their homes to approach it in three steps.

#### **Step 1 – Think Ahead**

Was your home built before 1990? Asbestos was used in more than 3000 building materials at that time, and you cannot tell just by looking at them. Use this asbestos checker to help identify where asbestos can be found in your home:

<https://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au/around-the-home>

#### **Step 2 – Plan Ahead**

Asbestos is dangerous when disturbed, so you should not remove it yourself. Fibres from disturbed, damaged or deteriorating asbestos are easily inhaled and can be a health risk. If you are engaging tradespeople, ask them about their Asbestos Contingency Plan: what they'll do if they come across any asbestos-containing materials. Use the planning checklist here to keep you and your family safe and to avoid any project delays or cost blow outs:

<https://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au/planning-checklist-for-diyers>

#### **Step 3 – Get a Professional**

Please do not risk your health or anyone else's. A licensed asbestos professional will provide advice on how to protect everyone's health and help you proceed safely. Further information is available here:

<https://www.asbestos.nsw.gov.au/who-to-contact/find-a-licensed-asbestos-assessor>

General Manager Paul Gallagher said, "Asbestos is considered a hazardous waste and cannot currently be accepted at any waste management facility within Coonamble Shire. It is a serious offence to dump illegally, and fines apply."

Asbestos-containing materials can be disposed of at Walgett, Narrabri and Narromine. Gilgandra Waste Facility can only accept bonded asbestos that has been double wrapped in an industrial grade plastic. No friable asbestos materials can be accepted at the Gilgandra Waste Facility.

Paul Gallagher  
**GENERAL MANAGER**