



31 July 2015

Dr Peter Boxall
Chair
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
1 Market Street
SYDNEY 2000

FIT FOR THE FUTURE SUBMISSION: HOLROYD CITY COUNCIL

Dear Dr Boxall

The Commonwealth Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (the agency) supports Holroyd City Council's Fit for the Future submission to remain as a Stand Alone Council.

The agency was established on 1 July 2013 to provide a national focus on asbestos issues which goes beyond workplace safety to encompass environmental and public health concerns. Its aim is to ensure asbestos issues receive the attention and focus needed to drive change across all levels of government. The agency is responsible for achieving this through the coordination and implementation of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness 2014-2018 (the plan).

One of the key target areas under the plan is to increase levels of asbestos education and awareness in the residential sector. Recently evidence has emerged of a growing number of people being diagnosed with an asbestos related disease resulting from exposure to asbestos through Do-It-Yourself (DIY) home renovation work.

Both the agency and Holroyd City Council recognise that local government involvement is key to tackling the issue of asbestos exposure in the residential sector. The Holroyd council area is often referred to as including 'the asbestos belt', noting the prevalence of asbestos fibro houses built in the post-World War II period. Holroyd have identified the specific risks and challenges this presents and have emerged as a leader in the fight to protect and inform its residents to the dangers of asbestos, creating local policies and procedures to improve the safety standards for the removal and disposal of asbestos-containing materials.



The work of Holroyd City Council has led to the creation of targeted asbestos education resources and strategies that have been shared across multiple local council areas. The agency is in the process of discussing a pilot to incorporate the completion of a specific asbestos education module into the application process for owner/builder licences to ensure that people are aware of the dangers of asbestos exposure prior to commencing work.

It is important that initiatives such as these are first rolled out in a targeted area to determine their likelihood for success on a larger scale across multiple local government areas. The agency is concerned that if Holroyd ceases to operate as a stand-alone council, these targeted initiatives may not continue to receive the attention they deserve.

The agency firmly believes that Holroyd City Council can continue to deliver efficient, effective services to the local community and will provide the best possible outcome for the residents of Holroyd in the areas of asbestos awareness and safety as a Stand Alone Council.

Yours sincerely



PETER TIGHE
Chief Executive Officer

