

MEDIA RELEASE

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Asbestos not accepted at Council waste facilities

Asbestos and asbestos containing materials pose a serious risk to our health and must be disposed of appropriately. Moving asbestos is the most dangerous time for inhaling fibres which means proper disposal is all the more vital.

“When taken into the lungs, asbestos fibres can cause a range of diseases such as mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis. Therefore, disposal of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) and asbestos itself requires specific handling,” said Cr Mary Fraser OAM, Mayor of Towong Shire Council.

“Residents may not be aware that Council does not accept asbestos and ACMs at either the Tallangatta Transfer Station or the Corryong Landfill because we are not licensed and fitted out to handle such substances.”

If your load of waste is suspected of containing asbestos you will be turned away from Council waste facilities. Certain ACMs are accepted at the Myrtleford and Albury waste disposal facilities. However, phoning ahead is required to arrange for disposal.

Illegal dumping of asbestos still occurs but attracts heavy fines. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has established a strike force program to stop this practice. The strike force works with Council and the community to respond to reports of illegal dumping of this dangerous substance. Those who are found to have illegally dumped or transported asbestos may be held responsible for the costs associated with its proper disposal.

Cr Fraser stated, “Licensed asbestos removal is the safest way to dispose of asbestos. Trained practitioners safely remove and dispose of the substance. If you suspect you have asbestos on your property, it is best to consult with a qualified removalist who is licensed by WorkSafe Victoria. A list of removalists can be found on the WorkSafe Victoria website.”

For further information on the disposal of asbestos, the Victorian Government asbestos website (asbestos.vic.gov.au) is a useful resource collating information from WorkSafe Victoria, the EPA and the Department of Health.