




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Asbestos Strategy

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.55 am): This morning I unveiled Australia's most rigorous strategy for the safe management and disposal of asbestos materials, the Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos in Queensland 2014 to 2019. I now table a copy of the strategy that we have developed in partnership with local government.

Tabled paper: Statewide Strategic Plan for the Safe Management of Asbestos in Queensland 2014-2019 [4855].

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General, through Workplace Health and Safety, will lead greater collaboration between state and local government agencies in the education and enforcement of laws surrounding the management of asbestos. Everybody knows that asbestos is a carcinogen; it poses serious health risks.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take all those interjections. The plan is an integrated strategic scheme for the regulation and management of asbestos in Queensland.

We will continue to work alongside local government agencies, businesses, workers and organisations to ensure the integrated delivery of services and ensure the safe management of asbestos. The plan will eliminate confusion surrounding the management of asbestos once and for all. It will mean safer workplaces, safer homes and safer communities. It is vital that the government has an active role in advising Queenslanders about how to best deal with asbestos and being aware of the dangers.

I thank the Sagers, who this morning told the story of their son, Adam. In 1983 they were building their own home and were sanding their walls. Little Adam, their 18-month-old son, was there collecting all the dust with his little dustpan and brush. Little did they know that some 20 to 30 years later he would die from an asbestos related disease at the age of 25 years due to exposure to asbestos when he was 18 months old. I want to publicly thank the Sagers for having the courage to tell their story and to help warn home renovators of the dangers when working around materials that contain asbestos. I say thank you to Trevor Gillmeister, who attended and spoke at the launch this morning. He is going to be our ambassador for the asbestos strategy.

I think Queenslanders can have greater confidence knowing that there is a coordinated approach between the state and local government on this important issue. Finally, I want to reiterate the importance of dealing with asbestos and that the best way to remove it from your premises is to contact a licensed professional. Do not take the risk.