



**Media Release
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**New Zealand Demolition and Asbestos Association announce
ground-breaking research into the state of the Asbestos Industry
and Management within New Zealand**

The New Zealand Demolition and Asbestos Association is proud to announce its major research project investigating the changes that have occurred within the nation's asbestos industry over the past 5 years since the introduction of the HSWA and Asbestos Regulations.

Asbestos management and removal is one of the most polarising issues within the Construction arena, and the industry has to contend with being one of the heaviest regulated industries within New Zealand. The subject matter touches business, regulators, workers and communities, and it is hoped that the final report will provide unique insight into the industry; the economic, regulatory and social environment, its stakeholders and challenges.

The final report, which is anticipated to be completed the middle of 2022 will be a foundation document for practical and targeted measures to support the Industry to improve its practices, and the Association intends on making it freely available as essential health and safety information.

The research will examine all sectors of the Industry and consult with a wide range of stakeholders, from building owners, head contractors to surveyors, removalists and, importantly, the workers, to answer those pertinent questions "what has changed?", "have we improved?" and "how can we get better?".

"We are obviously excited as an Industry to commission this report. We wanted a robust and honest assessment of our Industry, how we intertwine with our community and clients, and our relationships with our workers. A

report that would be relevant for five years or more. Our members want to improve – the status quo is no longer economically, environmentally and socially acceptable. We know that there are issues, but they are largely anecdotal; we need evidence and data, so we can appropriately target the NZDAA's resources. It was extremely important for the NZDAA to engage someone who has the credibility to ask those difficult questions. Mike [Cosman] is well respected for his knowledge, expertise and integrity, therefore represents the ideal person to lead this initiative" says Helina Stil, President of the NZDAA.

Mike Cosman, Senior Health and Safety Consultant of Cosman Parkes, has 42 years' experience in health and safety with a specific focus on asbestos through his career as a regulator, policy maker and consultant both in the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

Mike has an impressive track record of carrying out independent reviews as he was a member of the Taskforce post Pike River and also the Forestry Safety Review. Mike says ' the success of the project will come from the cooperation of all those involved in the industry from clients, professional services providers, contractors, laboratories, landfills and regulators. This will largely be a qualitative review as little objective data is collected around some of the key success criteria-such as the quality and value of pre-demolition surveys or the monitoring of ARCPs. If the industry wants to learn and improve it will have to be willing to open the box and reveal the good, the bad and the ugly!'.

"We've had discussions with stakeholders such as WorkSafe, MBIE, ACC, EPA, Unitec and FAMANZ and they support the intent of the project. While this is an NZDAA lead initiative, we want it to be inclusive and collaborative to optimise the opportunity this presents. Given the scale of this project it will be more important to spend time getting to speak to the right people, especially workers so we will be creating a confidential feedback and commentary portal for anyone who wants to contribute" Stil adds

Contact Information:

Do you want to participate and share your opinion on the state of Asbestos and the Industry within New Zealand?

Contact asbestosreportnz@gmail.com