

ASBESTOS — MERREDIN COLLEGE  
AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE CUNDERDIN

**735. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to asbestos fragments scattered across several regional WA schools such as Merredin College and the Western Australian College of Agriculture Cunderdin. What research is currently being conducted to determine whether other regional Western Australian primary and secondary schools, as well as town halls, have asbestos contamination?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The Department of Education has an asbestos management plan that describes the processes that ensure that all asbestos-containing materials are managed safely in schools. As part of this plan, an inspection of each school is undertaken on a regular basis—not exceeding three years—to assess the school’s buildings and its surrounds. When potential ACM in soil is identified on a school site, a licensed contractor is engaged to undertake a surface pick of the affected area to collect and remove any ACM. Depending on the nature of the potential ACM, an assessment may be undertaken to determine whether the site needs to be reported to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and a detailed investigation should be carried out by a qualified environmental health consultant.

I am not able to provide an answer to the part of the question about town halls because town halls are generally the responsibility of the relevant local government authority.