



2 August 2016

Guy Barnett, Minister for Building and Construction

### Safety of workers, the community the priority at Myer redevelopment site

Asbestos exposed after the recent flooding and wall collapse at the Myer Hobart redevelopment site will be removed under the watchful eye of WorkSafe Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government is working through several of our agencies and departments to assist on the site, and to ensure that the safety of workers and the wider community is paramount.

WorkSafe has advised that several buildings adjacent to the Myer redevelopment contained asbestos and some of these materials were exposed after the flooding and wall collapse moved structures. I am advised that contractors on the site have responded appropriately and there is no evidence that anyone has been affected.

Removing this asbestos will help to allow work to protect the adjoining buildings to continue.

The builder has engaged licensed asbestos removalists and it is expected an asbestos removal plan will be submitted to WorkSafe for approval within days.

Safety of workers and the public will be the top priority and the work itself will be subject to regular inspections by WorkSafe officers.

WorkSafe is very experienced in the approval and regulation of asbestos removal, with some 600 notifications received from asbestos removalists each year.

I am advised that this morning officers from Consumer, Building and Occupational Services met on the redevelopment site with representatives of the builders.

Following the meeting the Director of Building Control, Dale Webster, has ordered an audit of documentation for the redevelopment.

Mr Webster advises this is necessary to establish the level and extent of protection work in place prior to the wall collapse.