



# **The Hon Chris Hartcher**

## **Minister for Resources and Energy**

### **Special Minister of State**

### **Minister for the Central Coast**

---

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---

Tuesday 6 November 2012

### **NSW GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR ACTION ON ASBESTOS**

The NSW Government has called an urgent meeting with representatives from the Electrical Trades Union, Unions NSW, Networks NSW, the state-owned generators and Government agencies to ensure current plans for the management and removal of asbestos are operating effectively.

Energy Minister Chris Hartcher said the meeting, to be held on Thursday morning, will look at the asbestos management approaches of each of the businesses as well as awareness and training of staff.

“This is about making sure that all parties are working together to ensure workers’ health is protected,” Mr Hartcher said.

“All state-owned businesses are required to have an asbestos management plan in place – the safety of workers is of utmost importance.

“The Government is open to suggestions from all parties. This is about making sure that where necessary, action is being taken.”

Until the late 1980s, asbestos was commonly used as a building and insulation material throughout the electricity industry.

“I know that the NSW energy businesses treat asbestos management as an important occupational health and safety issue,” Mr Hartcher said.

“That is why the electricity network businesses and generators have asbestos removal plans in place that include comprehensive training programs, guidelines for works and waste removal processes, protective equipment and health monitoring programs.”