



# Asbestos Cement Pipes Stage 1 & 2

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## Background

Asbestos cement (AC) pipes were installed in water supply and sewerage reticulation systems across Australia from 1926 until well into the 1980s. However, some of these pipes are deteriorating at a rate faster than pipelines of other materials, which is requiring some water agencies to review their current and future rehabilitation programs to ensure service standards are maintained.

Most of these pipes are still in operation and water agencies across Australia are planning to replace these assets as failure rates increase with increased age. There are also environmental and work health and safety issues associated with maintenance of AC mains and maintenance operations and disposal of the pipe material.

The aim of this two stage project is to investigate the issues associated with AC pipes from a national perspective and try to quantify the costs to replace these assets now and into the future. It is also intended to identify strategies to address these issues and propose future projects and programs to assist the Australian water industry to manage these issues.

Stage 1 took the form of a member survey which went out to all project participants and formed the basis of our review of management practices in the Australian urban water industry. This data underwent basic analysis to identify trends in performance.

Stage 2, commencing in 2014, will look at developing strategies to manage issues associated with AC pipes and develop case studies demonstrating the management of identified issues.

## Outcomes and benefits

### Outcomes:

Stage 1 – Investigation of issues with AC pipe

- Identify current issues
- Basic analysis of performance
- Deliverables – industry survey, analysis and report

Stage 2 – Strategies to managing issues with AC pipes

- Non prescriptive guideline

**Benefits:**

- Identify strategies to help utilities address issues
- Propose future projects and programs to assist the Australian water industry to issues

## How to purchase

This subscription project was funded by participating WSAA Member utilities. Non-participating WSAA Members and those without WSAA membership will be required to purchase the project deliverable. The deliverable will only be made available to water utilities. Prices will be calculated according to a utility's number of connections.

Participating members can access this project via the [WSAA Member Portal](#). If you do not have access to the portal please contact [web@wsaa.asn.au](mailto:web@wsaa.asn.au).

## Further Information

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