1. In October 2014, the former Government announced an investigation of asbestos-related health concerns in relation to the operation of asbestos factories at Gaythorne and Newstead in Queensland.
2. The Wunderlich factory, located at 51 Prospect Road, Gaythorne, opened in October 1936 for the manufacture of asbestos cement. The James Hardie factory, located at the corner of Longland Street and Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead, commenced the manufacture of asbestos cement products in 1935. Both sites ceased manufacturing asbestos products in the early 1980s.
3. The investigation has concluded and was undertaken by a multi-agency steering group, led by Queensland Health, with representatives from a number of state and local government agencies.
4. The investigation revealed that there is no evidence of elevated asbestos-related health risk to residents who have commenced living near the former factories sites in Gaythorne and Newstead since the mid-1980’s, following the clean up of the sites. However, it is noted in the past there was likely to have been asbestos exposure in the vicinity of the former factories while they were operational and prior to their clean-up.
5. The epidemiological study found the number of mesothelioma cases in the vicinity of the former factory sites is consistent with what would be expected in the general Queensland population. However, there are a number of limitations to the analysis. While the epidemiological study did not identify an excess of cases of mesothelioma, the investigation acknowledges the anecdotal reports that asbestos related disease has occurred in those who lived near the factory during its operation. It is therefore possible that cases of mesothelioma have occurred as a result of para-occupational and neighbourhood asbestos exposures which have not been able to verified by the epidemiological findings.
6. The investigation has highlighted some issues of broader significance, which have resulted in recommendations to address the need for:
   1. Practical solutions to enable safe disposal of small quantities of asbestos waste by members of the public.
   2. Appropriate management strategies for providing advice to residents in Gaythorne and in other Queensland communities where buried asbestos may be extensively present. Residents should be made aware that buried asbestos is not a risk unless it is disturbed.
   3. Continued community education and awareness strategies on safe handling of asbestos containing materials.
7. Cabinet approved release of *Queensland Health report on the investigation into asbestos-related health concerns due to former asbestos factories at Gaythorne and Newstead.*
8. *Attachments*
   * [*Queensland Health report on the investigation into asbestos-related health concerns due to former asbestos factories at Gaythorne and Newstead*](Attachments/Report.pdf)