‘Emerging’ emerging contaminants

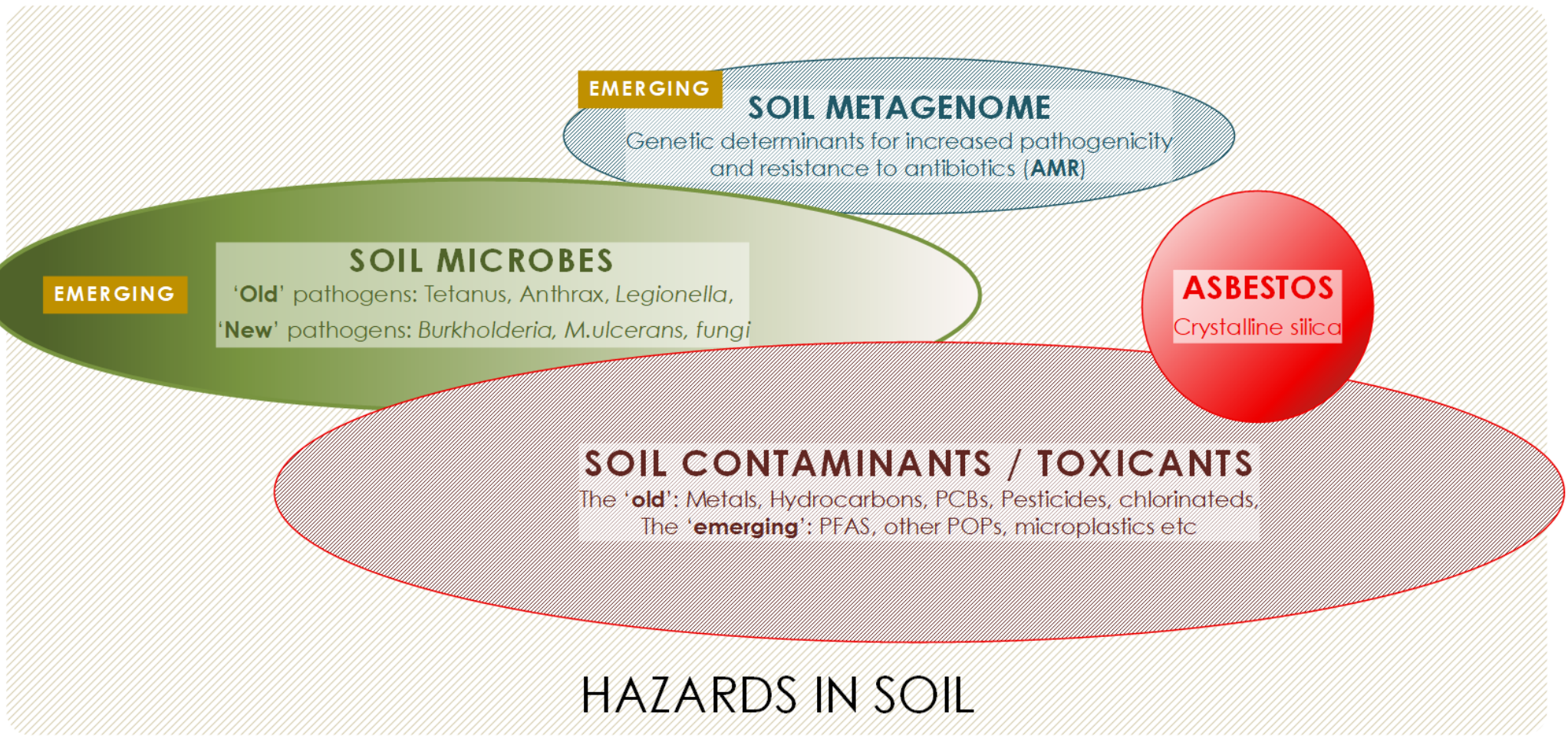
Going beyond just chemicals to include 'biological' hazards – why, what, how and for whom?

‘Emerging’ chemical contaminants such as PFAS and microplastics have been part of the site contamination industry’s consciousness for some time.

However, if the aim of the site (de)contamination industry is to make soil safe for the agreed land use, **should we be including biological hazards** in our assessments?

Some of the soil-borne biohazards we could consider including in future assessments:

- *Antimicrobial resistant (**AMR**)* microbes and AMR genetic material
- *Legionella* species - respiratory fever
- *Burkholderia pseudomallei* – ‘flesh-eating’ post flood infection
- *Mycobacterium ulcerans* – Bairnsdale bacillus / Buruli ulcer



HAZARDS IN SOIL

If our aim is to understand and minimise all the hazards that may be associated with soil, should we expand our horizons beyond just chemical contaminants? .

To pursue this idea further, please contact Brent Davey, the author (and committee member of the ALGA Emerging Contaminants SIG), at brent.davey@fyfe.com.au