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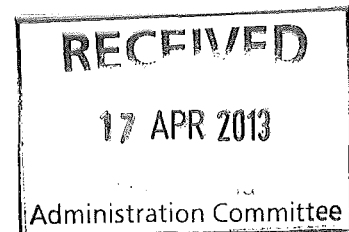
Subject: Operation of Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme

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Mr Michael Crandon MP,

Chair

Finance and Administration Committee



Dear Michael,

Spantech is a specialised construction company based on the Gold Coast. We have a patented roofing system that we use to construct commercial and defence projects across Australia and New Zealand.

The company was recently audited by WorkCover and your committee may be interested in our experience.

The Auditor discovered we have been over-estimating our wages by incorrectly including some payments to workers such as meal allowances. The Auditor also found we may be incorrectly categorised in one of the much high risk construction categories. Both of these findings will reduce our premiums in the future. This was welcomed news.

Suggestion:

- *Provide employers a self-audit tool so employers can assess whether they are complying with the requirements of the Act. The effect will be more efficient use of the employers resources and may lower the cost of audits for WorkCover.*

The Auditor also congratulated Spantech for the efforts we had made to reduce the number and cost of claims over the past few years. What the Auditor could not see was that to achieve this reduction, Spantech

has invested in excess of \$200,000 over the past three years to implement a safety system which is now independently certified by NCS International as compliant with the Australian Standard AS/NZS4801:2001.

Now that we have this certification, Spantech is able to apply for accreditation with the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner. OFSC Accreditation will allow Spantech to tender as Principal Contractor for federally funded projects valued at over \$3 million dollars, such as major Defence projects.

Suggestion:

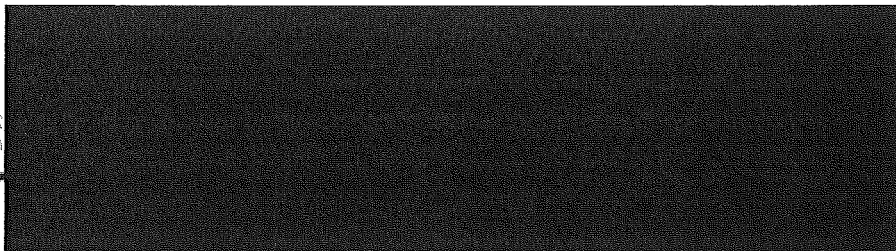
- *Provide employers with an incentive to implement an independently certified safety system by factoring this into the calculation of premiums. In our experience the benefits are: a safer workplace for employees; better business opportunities for the employer; lower costs for WorkCover.*

Thankyou for the opportunity and good luck with your review.

Regards

Craig Lucas

OHS Manager



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