

28 February 2014

Our ref 336/24

Research Director
Finance and Administration Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

By Post and Email: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Research Director

Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the *Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014* (the Bill). This response has been compiled with the assistance of our Industrial Law Committee.

The Society was grateful for the opportunity to be a stakeholder in the Attorney General's roundtables held on 29 August 2012 and 11 July 2013 to discuss work health and safety laws. The Society has long advocated that good legislation is the product of good consultation with stakeholders. We do note that we were not provided with draft legislation before the Bill was introduced into Parliament; therefore this is our first opportunity to comment specifically on the legislative drafting.

Given the timeframes available for making submissions and the commitments of our Committee members, it has not been possible to conduct an exhaustive review of the Bill. It is therefore possible that there are issues relating to unintended consequences or fundamental legislative principles which we have not identified. We wish to comment only in relation to one aspect of the Bill, namely the provisions relating to notice requirements for right of entry. We note that these are consistent with the provisions in the *Fair Work Act 2009*. This consistency may assist parties to be clear on their respective rights and obligations.

The Society also notes more generally the importance of properly resourcing Workplace Health and Safety Queensland to carry out its duties where the ability of other parties to enforce workplace health and safety obligations is reduced.

Yours faithfully


Ian Brown
President

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