

9 June 2015

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 2015

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.

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 make the following short comments in relation to the Bill.

It is noted that there is no proposal in the Bill to reinstate the positive obligation to have a workplace health and safety officer/advisor onsite at all times, at least for those organisations that were nominated in s.56 of the repealed Act. The Society considers that there would be practical merit in reintroducing that requirement.

At the time of making submissions in relation to the previous state government's proposed amendments to the legislation, the Society noted the importance of properly resourcing Workplace Health and Safety Queensland to carry out its duties. The Society repeats that submission. The prospect of issues arising out of the proposed broader right of entry provisions has been raised and it is important that the authorities are properly resourced to address any issues that may arise.

Finally, the Society urges that, as far as possible, the state legislation remain consistent with the federal scheme so that there is limited scope for misunderstanding of their rights and obligations by all persons affected by the legislation.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature block]

Michael Fitzgerald
President