



## Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee

Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Ph: 07 3553 6696 Fax: 07 3553 6699  
cwpsc@parliament.qld.gov.au  
[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/cwpsc](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/cwpsc)

Our Ref: A203764

6 September 2017

Mr Duncan Pegg MP  
Acting Chair  
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

via email: [ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Pegg

### **Inquiry into the Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill 2017 – answer to question taken on notice at public briefing on 4 September 2017**

This committee refers to the appearance of our counsel assisting, Mr Ben McMillan) at the public briefing held by the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee on 4 September 2017.

We note that there was a question taken on notice by Mr McMillan, summarised in the following extract from the transcript (pages 5-6):

*Ms LEAHY: What was envisaged exactly by 'bipartisan' support of that committee that oversees this authority?...*

*Mr McMillan: I am hesitant—I am concerned that I might have strayed beyond my remit. That was the way I had interpreted the provision. I had not considered that there was any lack of clarity in the provision. To the extent that you have drawn my attention to that, all I can do is offer to take that on notice. If the coal workers' committee are able to provide any greater clarity to you, we will certainly do that.*

*Ms LEAHY: I would be very appreciative if you would take that on notice and provide that advice to this committee. I think that would be very helpful.*

*Mr McMillan: I will.*

In response to this question taken on notice, we advise that we envisage the term 'bipartisan support' in the Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill would have the same meaning as that term has in the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. To put the position beyond doubt, we propose that a definition be added to the dictionary in schedule 1 to the draft Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill (identical in terms to that in the dictionary in Schedule 2 of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*) in these terms:

***bipartisan support***, of the parliamentary committee, means -

- (a) support of the members of the parliamentary committee unanimously; or
- (b) support of a majority of the members, other than a majority consisting wholly of members of the political party or parties in government in the Legislative Assembly.

If you wish to discuss any aspect, please contact our secretariat by email to [cwpsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:cwpsc@parliament.qld.gov.au) or on 3553 6696.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jo-Anne Miller'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mrs Jo-Anne Miller MP**  
Chair