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Australasian Faculty of
Occupational and Environmental Medicine

14 September 2017

Jim Pearce MP
Chair
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Queensland Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

By email: ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Pearce

Re: Invitation to make a submission on the exposure draft of the Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill 2017

Thank you for inviting The Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) to provide a submission in response to the Queensland exposure draft of the Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill 2017.

AFOEM is committed to improving the systems and processes for preventing and detecting coal workers' pneumoconiosis and other coal mine dust lung diseases.¹ Our goal is to ensure that this condition does not affect other coal workers in future. The aim must be for coal mine dust lung diseases to be eliminated from coal mines in Australia.

Unfortunately, due to the very short timeframe for this consultation, it was not feasible for AFOEM to produce a detailed submission in this instance. However, we are pleased that one of the panels to be established under this Bill specifies that the Expert Medical Panel will comprise of at least 2 respiratory physicians and at least 1 specialist in occupational medicine. The involvement of specialist physicians in respiratory and occupational medicine is essential to ensuring the effectiveness of the proposed independent Mine Safety and Health Authority.

Should you have any questions or require any further information about this submission, please contact AFOEM on AFOEM@racp.edu.au,

Yours sincerely,

¹ For reference, AFOEM has previously issued two submissions on coal workers' pneumoconiosis:

- [AFOEM feedback](#) on the Queensland Government's consultation paper titled *Spirometry for the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme - Next steps in planning reform*
- [AFOEM submission](#) to the Queensland Government's Select Committee of inquiry into coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP)

Dr Beata Byok
Acting President AFOEM