

Review of Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019

The Communications, Electrical, Electronic, Energy, Information, Postal, Plumbing and Allied Services Union of Australia (ETU) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Committee in their consideration on the proposed *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill 2019* (RSHQ Bill).

The Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland (the ETU) is an Organisation registered under the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld). The ETU is a union of over 12, 195 members representing employees employed in, or in connection with, the electrical industry, including many employed in the mining industry/resource sector and we make this submission on their behalf.

Summary

The ETU supports the draft RSHQ Bill establishing the resources safety and health regulator.

Having independence from the Department of Resources and Mines and Energy (DNRME) should provide better outcomes as there will be less departmental interference in the way the inspectorate operates.

The ETU welcomes the introduction of an independent Commissioner to oversee the RSHQ. As well as the enhanced functions to the Coal Mining and Health Advisory Committee (CMSHAC) and the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (MSHAC).

The ETU has seen many good reforms in the management of health and safety in the mining sector driven from these advisory committees to date, including the management of lung dust issues and diseases. We believe this will only be enhanced now.

We are supportive of the utilisation of a WHS Prosecutor if there is at least one person that has specific resource knowledge and expertise.

Finally, we are supportive of the enhanced definition of serious offence.

Peter Ong
Divisional Branch Secretary
ETU

30 September 2019