

Question on Notice

No. 1079

Asked on 14 October 2022

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the review of the Work Health Safety Act announced on 18 August 2022—

Will the Minister advise (a) key milestone dates for the review and (b) when and how Queenslanders will be able to make a submission to the review?

ANSWER:

Robust work health and safety laws are critical to ensuring Queensland workers are protected and can return home safe and healthy to their families and loved ones at the end of each day. To achieve this, continual assessment of the effectiveness of work health and safety laws is required. The current review of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Review) has been established to achieve this objective.

The Review commenced on 25 August 2022, and is being led by three independent reviewers: Mr Craig Allen, former Deputy Director-General, Office of Industrial Relations; Mr Charles Massy, a barrister specialising in Industrial Relations and Employment; and Ms Deirdre Swan, former Deputy President, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

As required by the Terms of Reference, the reviewers must consult with employers, registered industrial organisations, the legal profession and academics, in addition to other interested stakeholders, as part of the Review. How consultation for the Review is conducted is at the discretion of the reviewers. To date, consultation has involved a public submissions period which was open from 31 August to 23 September 2022. The reviewers received 50 submissions through this process. Meetings with key stakeholders are also being conducted.

To ensure a broad range of stakeholders have the opportunity to provide input to the Review, the reviewers used several broadcasting mechanisms. This included direct contact with key stakeholder bodies, publication on the WorkSafe and Get Involved websites, social media posts, alerts to eSafe subscribers and direct contact with members of the Work Health and Safety Board and Industry Standing Sector Committees.

Further consultation with Queenslanders may be undertaken subject to the findings and recommendations of the Review, and in accordance with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation.

The findings and recommendations from the review are expected to be provided in late 2022, or shortly thereafter.