



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2301127

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Mr Michael Crandon MP  
Chair  
Finance and Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Crandon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jarrod Bleijie".

Thank you for the work that the Finance and Administration Committee undertook in delivering its report entitled "*Inquiry into the Operation of Queensland's Workers' Compensation Scheme*", Report no.28 (the Report) on 23 May 2013.

Further to the Report, I can advise that the Government has made decisions regarding two of the recommendations made by the Committee.

In relation to the recommendations regarding the efficacy of the current definition of "worker" (recommendation 1) and my previous correspondence to the Committee on the definition, I can advise that the *Industrial Relations (Accountability and Transparency of Industrial Organisations) and other Acts Amendment Act 2013*, which contained an amendment to the definition of "worker" under the *Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003*, has received assent. This amendment aligned the definition of worker with Australian Taxation Office PAYG withholding payments from 1 July 2013.

Further, the Government has adopted the recommendation of the Committee proposing greater flexibility for self-insurance licensing (recommendation 30). I can advise that on 13 August 2013, the *Criminal Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013*, which contains an amendment to the requirements for self-insurance, received assent.

The amendment provides the Queensland Workers' Compensation Regulatory Authority (Q-COMP) with the discretion to issue or renew a self-insurance licence in circumstances where an employer does not meet one or more of the criteria for self-insurance, only if Q-COMP is satisfied that special circumstances exist, that warrant the employer being issued a licence or warrant the renewal of a licence. In addition to the special circumstances, Q-COMP would still need to be satisfied that the employer is a fit and proper person, can appropriately perform the functions and exercise the powers of a self-insurer, and meet the obligations of a self-insurer.

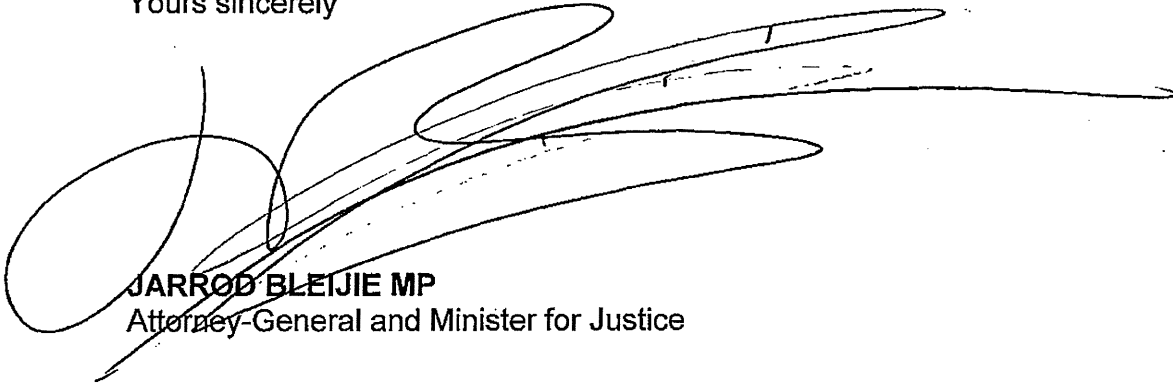
(2)

The Government is still considering the remaining recommendations and I will provide the Committee with a response to these recommendations in due course.

I ask that you consider tabling this advice for the information of members at the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Should your officers wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr David Fraser, Chief of Staff and Principal Adviser, on 3247 9068.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and long horizontal strokes extending to the right.

**JARROD BLEIJIE MP**  
Attorney General and Minister for Justice