



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AMENDMENT (REVIEW) BILL 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 March 2020

A NSW Upper House committee inquiring into the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Amendment (Review) Bill 2019, today tabled its report. The report recommends that debate on the bill proceed in the Upper House, and where appropriate amendments be considered that address stakeholder concerns raised in this inquiry.

This bill seeks to amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* to expedite implementation in New South Wales of 12 proposals based on recommendations of a national review of the model *Work Health and Safety Act* (the Boland Review). The bill's aim is to further improve safety in the workplace, including:

- acknowledging that workplace deaths may be prosecuted as manslaughter under the Crimes Act 1900;
- making it easier to prosecute the most serious work health and safety offences with the addition of "gross negligence" as a fault element;
- increasing the penalties for the most serious work health and safety offences; and
- extending the time within which a person can request that a regulator bring a prosecution in relation to a workplace incident involving risk of death or serious injury or illness from 12 months to 18 months.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, said 'During the short inquiry, the committee considered a number of concerns that were raised by stakeholders relating to these changes. We have specifically requested that the that the NSW Government urgently review, with a view to implementing, Recommendation 2 of the Boland Review, in relation to amending the model WHS Regulations to deal with how to identify the psychosocial risks associated with psychological injury and the appropriate control measures to manage those risks.'

Ms Moriarty continued: 'I would like to thank all who participated in the inquiry, and who provided submissions and attended the public hearing at short notice and I call on members to seriously consider stakeholder views in this report and prioritise the safety of workers, so that when people go to work they can return home safely to their loved ones.'

The report can be accessed via the committee's website:
www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/portfoliocommittee1.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, on 9230 2393.