

## **Standing Committee on Law and Justice 2021 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme**

### **Pre-hearing questions for the State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA)**

1. Based on SIRA's consultations in response to the 2018 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme, what further consideration has been given to adding to the list of dust diseases contained in Schedule 1 of the Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942 be amended?

#### **SIRA Response:**

SIRA consulted with the Dust Diseases Authority (iCare), the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and commissioned Professor Tim Driscoll to conduct an evidence review of the diseases nominated by TSANZ to inform options to update the dust diseases list contained in Schedule 1 of the *Workers' Compensation (Dust Diseases) Act 1942* (1942 Act). Professor Driscoll is a specialist in occupational medicine, public health medicine and an independent consultant in epidemiology, occupational health, and public health.

TSANZ and iCare provided feedback on the draft evidence review report (Driscoll report) it was also peer reviewed by Dr Ryan Hoy, a Respiratory and Sleep Disorders Physician and a Senior Research Fellow at the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, in May 2021.

The Driscoll report was finalised in September 2021 and makes five recommendations be considered to amend Schedule 1 to the 1942 Act.

Taylor Fry was commissioned to conduct an independent actuarial study to consider the potential implications of amending Schedule 1 to the 1942 Act. In October 2021, Taylor Fry provided a final actuarial assessment of the implications of amending the schedule based on the Driscoll report recommendations.

The 1942 Act is allocated to the Minister for Finance under the *Allocation of the Administration of Acts* and the dust diseases scheme is administered by iCare. In late 2021 SIRA completed its role in leading action on the recommendation and provided iCare with all evidence review and actuarial documents for it to consider and provide advice to Government on any proposed amendments to Schedule 1 to the 1942 Act arising from the recommendations of the Driscoll report.

SIRA has also provided TSANZ with a copy of the final Driscoll report.