



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO WORKERS COMPENSATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 February 2022

A NSW Upper House committee inquiring into the Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2021, today tabled its report. The report recommends that the Legislative Council reject the bill.

The Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2021 seeks to remove section 19B and related provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*. This section was inserted into the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* in May 2020 by the Parliament in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its purpose is to create a presumption that certain workers in frontline industries and occupations who acquire COVID-19 did so at work, thereby facilitating ready access for those workers to support through the workers compensation system.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Tara Moriarty MLC, said 'During the short inquiry, the committee examined the modelling supporting the Government's argument for removing section 19B and concluded that the financial case for the bill has not been made.'

'The committee also considered the impact of removing section 19B on frontline workers, noting that shifting the financial burden of managing COVID-19 in the workplace onto workers will have an adverse effect, particularly on frontline workers in casual and precarious employment.'

'Members should heed the stakeholder views in this report and prioritise the safety of workers as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. I call on members to act on the committee's recommendation to reject the bill.'

Ms Moriarty concluded: 'I would like to thank all who participated in the inquiry, and who provided submissions and attended the public hearing at short notice.'

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 0439 393 839.