

CPB Contractors Pty Ltd: Questions on Notice



29 May 2025

2024 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme

Question Taken on Notice	Response
<p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: Secondly—it's a similar question I put to John Holland—your website talks about a collaborative approach to procurement with your subcontractors. In your tunnelling projects, how many times have you fined, suspended or torn up contracts with your subcontractors for failure to adhere to work health and safety with regard to RCS, and have you placed any of those subcontractors on a "not to be procured again" list?</p> <p>GRAEME SILVESTER: Yes—</p> <p>The Hon. MARK BANASIAK: I'm happy for you to take that on notice because I'm after a specific figure.</p> <p>GRAEME SILVESTER: Certainly, member, if you like exact numbers, we will take that on notice. But from a moral perspective—and I always come from a moral perspective. I think legislation is fine, and we need it, yes. But, in my view, we come from a far higher standard, and that is that morally we want to make sure we do all we possibly can from a moral perspective. Where there are people or companies who, for whatever reason—and we would need to understand what that reason was—are not complying with our system and process, and if that reason is, "Don't care," or, "It's all talk," then we will deal with that contractor or that individual, and we will exclude them from the workplace. We have a system and process to engage our contractors. I personally have put bans on contractors being engaged because of that.</p>	<p>We wish to clarify, CPB does not maintain a list of subcontractors on a "not to be procured again list". CPB manages vendors, suppliers and subcontractor companies via a procurement platform. That platform allows CPB to appropriately manage subcontractor performance against a range of criteria, including their health and safety performance.</p> <p>Based on our reasonable enquiries, no subcontractor companies have been excluded from tendering opportunities for a failure to adhere to work health and safety with regard to RCS.</p> <p>Our experience is that the monitoring of on-site compliance with health and safety requirements regarding RCS is focused at an individual level. For example, if an individual worker has failed to comply with directions regarding the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE), they may ultimately be removed from site. Based on our reasonable enquiries, workers have been excluded from our tunnelling projects for RPE noncompliance. We are not able to provide a specific number across all projects.</p>

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Just a couple of questions again, because I note we're running out of time. Thank you, gentlemen, for attending. Mr Silvester, this is probably best addressed by you, but it could be Mr Edwards. When did your company, CPB, actually mandate the use of PPE in tunnelling projects?

GRAEME SILVESTER: The specific date, I'll have to take it on notice.

The Hon. ROD ROBERTS: Yes, that's fine.

The use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is and has been risk based across CPB projects. It has been common practice for workers in tunnelling projects for many years, with the use of RPE masks from (and likely earlier than) 2004. Records indicate that RPE became mandatory on projects from 2014, based on considerations of the work activity and accompanying risk.