



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **REPORT TABLED: 2024 REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES SCHEME**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**20 JUNE 2025**

The Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice has tabled its report for the 2024 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme.

The Chair, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, said: "This review focused on two key areas. First, the committee considered whether the scheme adequately supports younger workers diagnosed with a dust disease, including the adequacy of financial, vocational, training and psychological support. The committee has made several key recommendations with the view to improve support in these areas under the scheme for workers who are faced with a life changing diagnosis."

Mr Donnelly continued: "We then examined the risk factors and safety measures related to dust exposure in the tunnelling industry in New South Wales. Tunnelling work still presents a significant risk of silica related diseases, particularly silicosis, due to the exposure to respirable crystalline silica dust. It was important for the committee to consider this issue as part of the review, especially given the increasing number of tunnelling projects in Sydney."

Some of the recommendations in the report call for the government to consider:

- legislative amendments to provide workplace entry permit holders explicit rights to use portable devices, take measurements, capture photos and record videos in relation to work health and safety compliance
- developing a Memorandum of Understanding between SafeWork NSW and persons conducting a business or undertaking regarding the sharing of data and information relating to respirable crystalline silica exposure levels to assist with future projections and health monitoring of workers
- developing a consistent safety standard on the management of respirable crystalline silica for NSW Government funded tunnelling projects
- lowering the workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica to 0.025 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to better protect workers
- introducing statutory roles for certified occupational hygienists and ventilation officers for tunnelling projects to ensure accountability and authority in relation to air monitoring and ventilation
- allocating dedicated funding for a compliance team within SafeWork NSW to continue enforcing strengthened silica regulations for a further two years.



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The committee's report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, on (02) 9230 2280.*