

**Submission
No 248**

INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME

Organisation: Cross-Border Commissioner, NSW Trade and Investment
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**Trade &
Investment**
Cross-Border Commissioner

The Hon Robert Borsak MLC
Committee Chair
Joint Select Committee on the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Borsak

I refer to the Inquiry on the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme and the invitation to comment.

I commenced duties in the position of NSW Cross-Border Commissioner two months ago. During that time I have been conducting a listening tour around NSW cross-border communities as well as setting up systems and establishing networks. My office has now received a lot of feedback on many cross-border issues and a report is now being finalised into these first few months into the position.

A significant issue that has been raised at all borders by a variety of business people has been the cost of doing business in NSW compared to the adjoining state. The costs relate to state taxes, duplication of costs with the need for licensing on both sides of borders, and the cost and complications in dealing with the Workers Compensation Scheme in NSW.

Businesses that operate across borders such as bus companies and the building and construction industry all have challenges in understanding the fact that each state has its own system, with different cost bases and different administrative arrangements.

It is apparent that businesses large and small take these costs and complications into account when considering the location to either expand or relocate their business to.

It would be hoped that any outcome from the inquiry results in a simpler and less costly workers compensation insurance scheme and one that is seamless across state borders.

Since being in the position and dealing with a couple of related issues, I can say that senior staff at WorkCover have been most helpful.

Please contact my office should you have any further comments or questions.

Yours Sincerely

Steve Toms
Cross-Border Commissioner

21 May 2012