

MINES SAFETY AND INSPECTION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr W.J. Johnston (Minister for Mines and Petroleum)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [12.54 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Mines Safety and Inspection Amendment Bill 2017 is to increase penalties for offences under the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 to better align with the penalties in the model Work Health and Safety Act, with a further increase for inflation since 2010. For ease of reference, I will hereafter refer to the Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994 as the MSI act and the model Work Health and Safety Act as the model WHS act.

With the exception of Western Australia, Queensland and Victoria, other Australian jurisdictions have already implemented their versions of the model WHS act for their mining industry. The former government had announced and was developing the Work Health and Safety (Resources and Major Hazards) Bill. The provisions of the proposal were the subject of a decision regulatory impact statement and these were discussed extensively with stakeholders. The proposal included penalties consistent with those in the model WHS act. However, members will recall that the former government did not progress the bill to Parliament.

I am pleased to report that the McGowan government is currently expediting the development of a work health and safety bill for Western Australia. This work is being conducted by my Ministerial Advisory Panel on Work Health and Safety Reform. The bill will amalgamate both general industries and the resources sector. Thereafter, the relevant industry regulations will be developed by the panel. In the meantime, it is important to increase the MSI act penalties for the mining industry along with general industry. The new penalties will provide an increased incentive to comply with workplace safety laws and ensure that penalties meet community expectations. Furthermore, the updated penalties will highlight the importance of maintaining a safe workplace. The current MSI act penalties have not been increased since 2004. Increasing penalty levels in the MSI act will ensure that Western Australia's penalties for the mining industry are consistent with most other Australian jurisdictions. This bill sends a clear message that the McGowan government is committed to ensuring that all workers return home safely from work.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms L. Mettam**.