

**NATIONAL WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS —
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Statement by Minister for Commerce

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Commerce) [10.02 am]: I have made statements in this place on previous occasions concerning the proposed national work health and safety laws. At this time, the complete package of WHS laws is not yet available. It is also the case that the national regulation impact statement for the general WHS regulations has been assessed by the Western Australian regulatory gatekeeping unit as unsatisfactory for the purposes of understanding the impact on Western Australia. As a consequence, I advise that a public consultation process will be launched on Friday, 17 August 2012 to assess the potential impact of the proposed general WHS regulations in terms of the costs and benefits on the Western Australian community.

WorkSafe WA has engaged Marsden Jacob Associates to conduct a two-month public consultation process. This will provide all participants in Western Australian workplaces with an opportunity to provide their views on the merits of the proposed regulatory regime. To assist in this process, WorkSafe WA has prepared an information and issues paper, which provides some detail, in an easy-to-understand format, about the proposed changes that would arise with the adoption of the model WHS regulations. A range of processes—including emails to WorkSafe's subscription list, letters to industry associations, radio advertisements, and advertisements in *The West Australian* and local and community newspapers—will be used to alert the community of the opportunity to provide comments and get involved with the consultation as soon as it commences. A schedule of public forums has been established, which includes six sessions in regional areas and six sessions in and around metropolitan Perth, and a range of communications tools will be used to alert everyone of the opportunity to provide comments and get involved with the consultation as soon as it commences. At the completion of the public consultation process, the consultant will prepare a report for the government's consideration.

I look forward to providing to the house later this year a further report about this important matter.