

WORKERS COMPENSATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT BILL 2023

Third Reading

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations) [1.15 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

In closing the debate, I thank all the members who contributed to the debate at the second reading stage. I acknowledge the member for Cottesloe, in particular, for his interest and for the interesting and important questions that he asked during consideration in detail. I understand he is not well today and cannot be present. This is an important step forward for workers compensation arrangements here in Western Australia. Although the bill is not loved by all, it is an important step forward. It will do what it is supposed to do and it will not do what it will not do. It is going to bring the current legislation into a better format, as was discussed in the consideration in detail stage, plus implement the modest election commitments that we took to the last campaign. Of course, those changes are very important and will benefit workers. As the Minister for Industrial Relations, I am very pleased that I have now supported through the Parliament amendments to every major piece of legislation in the industrial relations portfolio. It reflects that the McGowan Labor government is very active on legislative reform in Western Australia. I thank everyone in the chamber.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [1.17 pm]: On behalf of the member for Cottesloe, I pass on his thanks to all the advisers and others who were involved. He also said to pass on his thanks to the minister for the way that way he handled the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023.

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations) [1.18 pm] — in reply: Again, to close out the debate, I forgot to thank Chris White and the team from WorkCover WA. This has been a massive piece of work. I think this originally started in 2008, so we can see that WorkCover has been working on the legislation for well over a decade. The report that we will be implementing was handed down in 2014. I would like to thank Chris White, the chief executive officer of WorkCover, all the staff who helped him and, of course, all the people who were engaged in the consultation processes that led to the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023 getting here.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.