

# FARMSAFE WA ALLIANCE Inc.



The Hon. Adele Farina MLC  
Member for the South West Region  
Chair – Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Legislative Council Western Australia  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

September 5, 2017

Dear Ms Farina

## **Standing Committee on Public Administration – Inquiry into Worksafe WA**

I make this submission on behalf of the Farmsafe WA Alliance to the Standing Committee on Public Administration Inquiry into Worksafe Western Australia (WA).

Farmsafe WA Alliance is a not for profit organisation founded in 1994 through the voluntary work of farmers, and continues to act as an independent non-government organisation, working closely with the agriculture industry and government agencies to promote safety health and wellbeing, providing information and tools that the industry members can apply to their business to ensure compliance and implement safety systems in their businesses.

Farmsafe WA Alliance also has AusChem Training as part of the umbrella organisation, providing information and chemical safety training across Western Australia which is delivered by the TAFE colleges. We have a continuing and important working relationship with Worksafe.

In the past, suggesting in the last thirty or so years, the farming industry has been very fearful of Worksafe. This was partly caused by the attitude of Worksafe Inspectors as they undertook their role of conducting workplace inspections all those years ago, when there was a targeted approach through a policeman-like attitude with harsh penalties about workplace safety. Through reality or through rural myths' which still abound, it has been perceived that the threat of a farming business being 'shut down' by a Worksafe Inspector was and still is very real.

Due to the relentless hard work of the Farmsafe WA Alliance, since 1994, and in particular in the past two years, we are seeing a much needed 'shift' in the understanding of and by the agriculture industry about the need to be compliant with legislation and the realisation that the industry needs to improve significantly regarding managing hazards and risks and implementing safety measures and systems.

Farmsafe WA Alliance is an active member of the Agriculture Industry Safety Group (AISG) which is chaired by Mr Lex McCullough, Commissioner for Worksafe (WA). Farmsafe WA Alliance values the contribution of Worksafe Inspectors who regularly attend the meetings and provide support to that committee by providing solutions and information that can then be disseminated to the various membership groups that make up the committee.

