



Meeting No.	13	Time:	9.00am
Venue	Koorling Dandjoo Conference Room, 1 Adelaide Terrace	Secretariat:	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS)

Work Health and Safety Commission Minutes – 5 July 2023

Attendees

Dr Patricia Todd	Chairperson
Mr Darren Kavanagh	WorkSafe Commissioner
Ms Christina Folley	A/Director WorkSafe Mines Safety
Dr Lin Fritschi	Expert member
Ms Jennifer Low	Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)
Mrs Agnes McKay	CCIWA
Mr Owen Whittle	UnionsWA (via Microsoft TEAMS)
Mr Glenn McLaren	UnionsWA

Guests

Ms Laila Nowell	Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA (CME) (member-elect)
Mr Chris White	Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover WA

Apologies

Ms Naomi McCrae	UnionsWA
Dr Matthew Davies	Expert member

Executive Officer

Helen Brown	Senior Policy Officer, WorkSafe
Alan Layton	Policy Officer, WorkSafe

1 ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Opening and welcome

The Chairperson welcomed members, and was pleased to report that Ms Tracey Bence has been appointed as a temporary member of the Work Health and Safety Commission (WHSC), while the process of permanent appointment is underway.

Ms Bence fills the vacancy for an expert member created when Dr Julia Norris did not seek an extension of term. Ms Bence is President of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists, with qualifications and experience in that field. Ms Bence is currently employed by a mining company as a Group Occupational Hygienist and has held other similar roles in the resources industry. Ms Bence will attend the next WHSC meeting.

Mrs Agnes McKay was officially appointed in June 2023 as a member of the WHSC by the Governor, having been nominated by CCIWA.

A CCIWA member queried whether the expiry of terms was being tracked. The Executive Officer (EO) confirmed that this is being done, with the terms of a number of members due to expire on 4 April 2023. This matter will be addressed shortly. The Chairperson noted that the Public Sector Commission recommends that board members do not serve for longer than ten years.

1.2 Apologies

Dr Matt Davies
Ms Naomi McCrae

1.3 Confirmation of agenda

The agenda was confirmed as the business of the meeting.

1.4 Declaration of conflicts of interest

Nil

2 PREVIOUS MEETING/S

2.1 Confirm minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes were **ENDORSED** as a true and correct record subject to minor corrections/clarifications in sections 4.8 and 4.10, as flagged by a member.

The WorkSafe Commissioner ('the Commissioner') provided additional information in relation to Action 10 in section 4.5 of the Minutes, which relates to the WHSC's suggested approach to Recommendation 6 of the *Inquiry into the agricultural industry in Western Australia – Report to the WorkSafe Commissioner* (the Report). The Agricultural Working Group has been established within WorkSafe to address the Report's recommendations, and will revert to the WHSC regarding materials to be produced. The Executive Officer added that the WHSC's suggested approach to Recommendation 6 was conveyed to the Agricultural Working Group.

The Chairperson noted that a CCIWA representative had collated some additional data regarding accidents in the agriculture industry, and suggested that the Agricultural Working Group be made aware that more data is available than is in the Report. At the previous meeting the WHSC agreed that data should be taken into account when deciding on guidance material to be produced.

2.2 Review Action List from previous meeting

Action items on the Action List were discussed by default. At this point, the WHSC **AGREED** to a suggestion by a CCIWA representative that the *Strategic Plan 2023-27* be included for reference in the papers for each meeting, positioned after the agenda.

In relation to Item F on the Action List, the Chairperson noted that the submission to Safe Work Australia (SWA) by the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists in relation to options for prohibition on the use of engineered stone was circulated to members, as recommended by expert member Dr Lin Fritschi. The Chairperson recommended that members and guests read this very informative submission if they have not already done so.

In relation to Item R on the Action List, a CCIWA representative queried whether a SWA representative will address the WHSC on the topic of SWA's Data Improvement Project. The EO stated that contact had been made but the latest emails had not been responded to; the EO will renew contact.

The Work Health and Safety Commission (WHSC) **NOTED** the Action List.

ACTION 1 – Include a copy of the *WHSC Strategic Plan 2023-27* within papers for each WHSC meeting, positioned after the agenda.

ACTION 2 – Renew contact with SWA in relation to a request for a SWA representative to address the WHSC on the topic of SWA's Data Improvement Project.

2.3 Codes of Practice and Guidance

See agenda Item 4.3

2.4 Strategic Plan

See Agenda Item 4.5

3 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NOTING

(discussed by default)

3.1 HSR Training Approvals

The WHSC was presented with applications by providers of training for Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) for endorsement, following approval out of session by the Chairperson.

The WHSC:

- **ENDORSED** the approval for the following training provider to deliver the one day refresher training course:
 - WALGA Training
- **ENDORSED** the approvals for the following additional nominated trainers:
 - Training Services Australia – Vicki Smith
 - WA Skills Training – Peter Hannon
 - WHS Foundation – James Thomson, Michael Frost, Stuart Paull, Thomas Bourne.

3.2 Construction Industry Safety Advisory Committee (CISAC)

The WHSC **NOTED** the CISAC report summarising the meeting of 20 June 2023, where the main points of discussion related to:

- sharing information on factors contributing to workplace fatalities;

- the national Code of Practice: *Precast, Tilt-Up and Concrete Elements in Building Construction*; and
- the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between WorkSafe and the Training Accreditation Council that allows the sharing of information regarding High Risk Work Licence training.

3.3 Mining and Petroleum Advisory Committee (MAPAC)

A communique summarising the MAPAC meeting of 15 June 2023 was presented to the WHSC. The communique will be published on the WorkSafe website. The main points were:

- reinstatement of Mines Safety Levies meetings for members nominated by the Australian Mining and Exploration Companies and the CME, to provide transparency regarding how the levy funds are spent;
- discussion on the scope and development of the draft Code of Practice *Accommodation in mining and construction camps*;
- discussion of a letter from the Cancer Council WA recommending that smoking and e-cigarettes be addressed on the Code of Practice *Accommodation in mining and construction camps*, including current practices to manage smoking on mine sites;
- an overview of legislative reforms relating to silica in the workplace, noting that while most cases of silicosis appear to be in the engineered stone processing industries (rather than in mining), WorkSafe is interrogating existing departmental data relating to silica and historical health monitoring; and
- processes being developed by WorkSafe to facilitate reporting of assaults and sexual harassment.

The WHSC **NOTED** the MAPAC report.

3.4 Agricultural Safety Advisory Committee

Nil

3.5 Legislative Advisory Committee

Nil

3.6 Worksafe events update

Key points of the Worksafe events update presented to the WHSC were:

- WorkSafe inspectors provided information at the *Perth Tradie Expo 2023* held on 16-18 June;
- a *Dangerous Goods Consultants Forum* was held by WorkSafe on 21 June 2023, providing information on topics such as future energy and hydrogen safety; and
- a *Major Hazard Facilities Forum* was also held by WorkSafe on the same day, whereby regulatory guidance was provided.

In relation to the event *Applying Quinlan's Ten Pathways to Death and Disaster in Western Australia's mining industry* planned for 10 August 2023, the CME representative queried whether information about this event can be publicised with industry. The A/Director WorkSafe Mines Safety responded affirmatively.

The WHSC **NOTED** the WorkSafe events update.

3.7 Regulatory Activity Report

Expert member Dr Lin Fritschi noted that *Injury/Disease Notifications* in the Regulatory Activity Report for May 2023 are nearly double what they were for the previous 3 years. The Commissioner explained that this is due to different reporting requirements in the new WHS legislation.

A CCIWA representative noted that there have not been any applications to become accredited as an asbestos assessor, and queried the progress of reducing the cost of accreditation. The Commissioner responded that the regulator has the capacity to adjust fees, and the reduced fee will take effect shortly, with a refund to anyone who applies for accreditation in the interim.

The WHSC **NOTED** the WorkSafe *Regulatory Activity Report* for May 2023.

3.8 Fatality Update Report

The CME representative queried whether the interesting statistics in the Fatality Update Report for May 2023 can be shared verbally with industry. The Commissioner will take this question on notice. Worksafe's Data Intelligence Team is working on an annual publication regarding the state of the work environment, which will include statistics regarding fatalities. If release of this document is imminent, it would be preferable that information from the Fatality Update Report for June 2023 was not shared.

A UnionsWA representative questioned whether all vehicle fatalities that occur on public roads while carrying out work duties will be reflected in this report. The Commissioner explained the background to this question, whereby fatalities occurring on public roads while carrying out work duties have not always been captured in statistics. Approaches have been made to Main Roads and WAPOL to ensure such fatalities are captured in WorkSafe data. Some of this data has been included as from the 2021-22 reporting year. However, the Commissioner stated that caution must be used in releasing this data, and suggested a future agenda item for the WHSC on this matter.

The Fatality Update Report for May 2023 was **NOTED** by the WHSC.

ACTION 3 – Following further consideration, the Commissioner will notify the WHSC as to whether statistics within the Fatality Update Report for May 2023 can be shared externally.

3.9 Exemptions

The WHSC was presented with details of exemptions granted under the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2023 for the period 11 May-15 June 2023. Six exemptions were granted, relating to:

- regulation 246 (Items of plant to be registered); and
- regulation 446(1) (Duty to limit use of equipment).

The WHSC **NOTED** the exemptions granted.

3.10 Correspondence

- 3.10A – Chairperson of WHSC to Minister for Industrial Relations – Recommendation re regulatory framework for e-cigarettes.
- 3.10B – Office of Minister for Industrial Relations to WHSC – Minister and staff to attend WHSC meeting on 4 October 2023.

- 3.10C – Instrument - Appointment of CCIWA nominee, Mrs Agnes McKay, to WHSC.
- 3.10D – Chairperson of WHSC to Cancer Council – Response to letter re e-cigarettes.
- 3.10E – Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to WHSC – Information re boating regulation.

A CCIWA representative queried the response from AMSA regarding boating regulation in 3.10E above. The response did not answer the question regarding whether the two Western Australian codes of practice relating to boating regulation are necessary, in light of the fact that boating regulation sits in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions. The Commissioner reported that a nationally consistent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AMSA and all safety regulators relating to boating regulation will soon be released, however it does not address operations at a site level. It was **AGREED** that the codes of practice relating to boating regulation will be discussed again at a future meeting.

The WHSC **NOTED** the correspondence.

4 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND OTHER STANDING ITEMS

4.1 **WorkCover WA report** (standing item)

The Chief Executive Officer of WorkCover WA reported on workers' compensation matters, commenting that the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023 is still passing through Parliament and that the consultation process for the associated regulations is ready to commence immediately upon passing of the Bill. Some amendments have been proposed. It is still intended that the legislation will take effect on 1 July 2024.

It is policy renewal time for workers' compensation insurance. WorkCover WA's recommended rates have gone down, however it is thought that insurers may maintain higher rates. WorkCover is monitoring failure to renew insurance, given cost pressures at present.

The Commissioner is to join the WorkCover WA Board at the August 2023 meeting, taking the place of the Director General of the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. This board position is more aligned with the Commissioner's role.

The WHSC **NOTED** the WorkCover WA report.

4.2 **Code of Practice: *Managing electrical risks in the workplace***

The WHSC was presented with the draft Code of Practice: *Managing electrical risks in the workplace* (the Code) for endorsement for public consultation. The Code is based on Safe Work Australia's model code of the same name but has been revised to reflect the Western Australian legislative environment. Electrical licensing in Western Australia is regulated by the Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991.

A UnionsWA representative reported that he had provided the Electrical Trades Union with a copy of the Code, accompanied by the message that it is due to be released for public consultation, and has not received feedback at this stage.

The CME representative and a CCIWA representative commented on the helpfulness of the 'change table' that accompanied the Code. The change table

summarised the differences between the Code and the SWA model code on which it is based.

The WHSC **ENDORSED** the Code for release for public consultation for a three month period.

4.3 **Prioritisation of development/amendment of codes and guides**

The table that is presented at every WHSC meeting containing updates on the status of codes of practice and other guidance that have been the subject of a decision by the WHSC was presented, with a view to the items in the table being prioritised. This will assist WorkSafe to prioritise the development/amendment of this material.

Following much discussion, it was agreed to prioritise the items purely on the basis of impact on health and safety in the workplace, and not taking into account other factors such as resources or the work involved. The Mining and Petroleum Advisory Committee's prioritised list was noted, with some items being on both lists. The Chairperson emphasised that prioritising the list should not be equated with telling WorkSafe what to do.

The WHSC **RATED** items 1, 2, 3, or 4, with "1" being the highest priority.

Ref.	Code of practice/guidance (is a code if not indicated otherwise)	Rate	Comment
A	Working Hours (revision)	1	This will incorporate the Code of Practice: <i>Fatigue management for commercial vehicle drivers</i> . Vehicle accidents are one of the main causes of workplace fatalities.
B	Occupational safety and health in the WA public sector (revision)	1-2	The public sector is the biggest employer in the Western Australian economy. A large proportion of workers' compensation payments go to public sector employees.
C	Mentally healthy workplaces for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers in the resources and construction sector (revision)	1	High priority given the findings of the <i>Enough is Enough - Sexual harassment against women in the FIFO mining industry</i> report.
D	Design and management of mining and construction accommodation (new)	1	The draft will come to the WHSC following review by MAPAC. This is a high priority given the findings of the <i>Enough is Enough - Sexual harassment against women in the FIFO mining industry</i> report.
E	Autonomous machinery (guidance) (new)	3	It will be some time before the use of autonomous machinery is taken up on a broad scale. The review of the code of practice relating to the use of autonomous machinery in the mining industry may help inform the development of general guidance.
F	Concrete and masonry cutting and drilling (revision)	Not rated	Nearly finalised.

Ref.	Code of practice/guidance (is a code if not indicated otherwise)	Rate	Comment
G	Precast, tilt-up and concrete elements construction - SWA	Not rated	The Construction Industry Safety Advisory Committee is investigating adaption of the SWA code, and is well advanced. It is likely that the WHSC will need to make a decision on the scope and references to Standards.
H	Styrene (information sheet) (new)	4	Information can be extracted and collated from other codes/guidance. It was noted that styrene guidance does not exist in other jurisdictions, and members wondered whether it was necessary.
I	Guideline for the development of industry codes of practice (revision)	4	SWA information could be incorporated.
J	Working Alone (guidance) (revision)	2	This relates to a large group of workers.
K	Managing electrical risks in the workplace (new)	Not ranked	Nearly finalised.
O	Man overboard: prevention and response (revision)	3	Parts of the maritime industry are of concern, such as cray-fishing, abalone, tourism and fishing charters. Guidance may be more appropriate.
P	Ferry and charter boat industry (Department of Planning and Infrastructure) (revision)	3	Parts of the maritime industry are of concern, such as cray-fishing, abalone, tourism and fishing charters. Guidance may be more appropriate.
Q	Prevention and control of legionnaires disease (revision)	4	Waiting on information being developed by SWA.
R	Occupational safety and health in call centres (revision)	4	Psychosocial and physical hazards (relating to ergonomics) are some hazards in this sphere. The WorkSafe call centre team members may have had a checklist on this matter.
S	Excavation (revision)	Not ranked	In progress.
T	Control of noise in the music industry (guidance) (revision)	4	Although noise is a well-known controllable hazard, it is still an issue. There are a lot of informal arrangements, and not a good connection between WHS and workers' compensation aspects. The need for this guidance was questioned, given that there is a general Code of Practice: <i>Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work</i> .
U	Guidance for alcohol and other drugs in the workplace (revision)	2	Current guidance is out of date, and needs to address e-cigarettes and medicinal cannabis.
V	Elevating work platforms (new)	1	Evidence presented to the WHSC at a previous meeting supports the need for a code.
W	Safe shooting of animals (guidance) (new)	4	The need for this was questioned.

4.4 **Survey of Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training providers**

A report titled *Registered training organisations and trainers: satisfaction survey report – June 2023* (the Report) was presented to the WHSC. This report summarises the results of a survey of HSR training providers conducted by WorkSafe, which sought to assess the effectiveness of the webinar *Role of WorkSafe* in communicating with HSRs.

The webinar forms part of the five-day HSR training course. This session was formerly delivered in person by WorkSafe officers who visited training sessions, but was changed to an online format due to COVID-19 and resource constraints. The overall feedback was generally that the webinar is worthwhile but in-person presentations would be preferable.

The Chairperson was delighted to note in the conclusion of the Report that WorkSafe has employed a “Senior Safety Education Officer – HSR” to develop an approach to build, establish and maintain relationships with HSRs and others. The Commissioner added that WorkSafe is also working on other initiatives relating to HSRs, including having a dedicated inspector. The A/Director WorkSafe Mines Safety referred to a recent survey that showed that mining inspectors found the most meaningful part of their role was meeting HSRs.

A CCIWA representative noted the comments and suggestions collected in the survey, such as the request for the webinar to be later in the week when more material has been covered. Some of the comments have been repeated many times over the years, and could be used to improve the webinar. A UnionsWA representative expressed support of the concept of surveying training providers. The Chairperson suggested that the comments in the survey be discussed at the next RTO Forum.

The EO reported that the Senior Safety Education Officer – HSR has already approached her and a meeting is planned to discuss the WHSC’s views relating to HSRs and their training.

The WHSC **NOTED** the report *Registered training organisations and trainers: satisfaction survey report – June 2023*.

4.5 **WHSC Strategic Plan – Operationalisation**

The WHSC was presented with the WHSC’s *Strategic Plan 2024-27* (‘the Plan’), with action items contributed by two members incorporated. At the previous WHSC meeting, it was agreed that the strategic initiatives in the Plan do not necessarily need to be populated with actions, however members were invited to submit any actions they believe should be highlighted in the Plan.

The WHSC **AGREED** that the following additional action items raised at the meeting be incorporated into the Plan:

Strategic Initiative	Action Item
2.0 Embed the legislation	Standing WHSC agenda item
2.2 Transitional arrangements and support/monitor	
4.0 Address hazards and risks	Monitor materials produced by SWA
4.2 Develop industry-specific guidance for high-risk industries	

Strategic Initiative	Action Item
4.3 Increase the awareness of PCBUs about their duty to protect workers from exposure to harmful substances (matches SWA)	New WES (workplace exposure standards)
5.0 Enabling	Statutory review of Dangerous Goods legislation
5.2 Enhance interaction with WorkSafe	Collaborate with WorkSafe regarding research

The entry under 4.1 (review structure of industry-specific committees) regarding the timing of the review is to be removed.

CCIWA referred to 4.1 (review structure of industry-specific committees), and suggested that during this review, matters such as the cost of sitting fees should be taken into account.

The WHSC **APPROVED** of the amendment of the *Strategic Plan 2024-27* by incorporating agreed action items.

ACTION 4 – The *Strategic Plan 2024-27* is to be amended as detailed above.

ACTION 5 – Provide link for WHSC members to the WorkSafe website information concerning transitional provisions.

4.6 Update – Code of Practice for public sector

An agenda paper prepared by the Chairperson was presented to the WHSC for the purpose of clarifying issues surrounding the draft Code of Practice: *Work health and safety and injury management systems for the Western Australian public sector* ('the Public Sector Code').

At the WHSC meeting of June 7 2023, the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee sought approval to establish a working group to review the draft Public Sector Code and report back to the WHSC. Following much discussion at that meeting, the WHSC could not reach agreement on this request or a way forward, and it was decided to refer the matter to the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC).

The main point of contention was the generic format of the Public Sector Code which explains the development and structure of a safety management system. Some members felt the document should address key hazards facing public sector workers, such as increased violence and aggression towards those who interact with the public.

As the LAC meeting scheduled for 21 June 2023 was cancelled, the Chairperson sought to progress the matter by presenting four statements to the WHSC for discussion. These are listed below, accompanied by details of the discussion and decision.

- a) *That the WHSC wants the Public Sector Code to include information on some of the specific hazards common to the public sector.*

The WHSC **AGREED** with this statement.

A UnionsWA representative noted that UnionsWA had submitted information on hazards common to the public sector to the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee about 18 months ago.

- b) *That in determining which hazards are included in the Public Sector Code, WA workers' compensation claims data be considered.*

The WHSC **AGREED** with this statement.

- c) *Suggestion: Maintain a risk based format and build onto it information about common and significant hazards ('priority areas') across the public sector.*

A CCIWA representative suggested that the format should be based on the format commonly used in model codes (eg Code of Practice: Construction work). The WorkCover representative commented that the Construction Work Code relates to the act of construction, not to a sector, and its format may not be applicable to the Public Sector Code. It is not feasible for all hazards relating to the public sector to be addressed. The CCIWA representative responded that she was suggesting the inclusion of sections such as "duties" and "consultation", which are common to most codes of practice.

The Chairperson pointed out that there is no single format for codes of practice. The CCIWA summarised her view by saying that aspects that are consistent across most modern codes should be included in the Public Sector Code. A UnionsWA representative agreed with this, and referred to confusion in the public sector about who the duty holders are. The Chairperson was of the view that the draft Public Sector Code does include some of these elements.

The Commissioner informed the WHSC that he had no issue with the four recommendations. The Commissioner also stated that he understood the frustrations with the slow progress of development of the Public Sector Code and the low frequency of meetings of the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee.

The Commissioner recommended that when the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee meets in August 2023, it can discuss key hazards in the public sector. The outcomes can then be forwarded to LAC for their subsequent meeting, to inform discussion about the way forward for development of the Public Sector Code.

A UnionsWA representative expressed concern about the operations of the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee and the lack of oversight. Submissions by stakeholders to this committee appear to have been lost or disregarded. Some regular de-briefs about progress of this committee would be helpful.

The WHSC **AGREED** that the format of the Public Sector Code should be consistent with the format of model codes in that generic information common to all workplaces (relating to matters such as duties and responsibilities) be included.

The WHSC **AGREED** with the Commissioner's proposal that the Public Sector Work Health, Safety and Injury Management Advisory Committee will collate prevalent hazards for public sector workers at their meeting in August 2023, and the outcomes to be used by the LAC to inform their discussion on the way forward for development of the Public Sector Code.

- d) *Inclusion of injury management in the Public Sector Code.*

The WHSC **AGREED** that injury management should not be included in the Public Sector Code. The WorkCover representative commented that the content in the current Public Sector Code is very generic and adds no value. A CCIWA representative added that injury management falls outside the jurisdiction of the Public Sector Code.

4.7 **New model Code of Practice: Tower cranes**

Safe Work Australia published the Model Code of Practice: *Tower cranes* (Tower crane Code) on 19 June 2023. This code was presented to the WHSC for the purpose of deciding whether any further action should be taken.

The Commissioner provided background, saying that the eastern States jurisdictions were keen for development of a Tower Crane Code, and he gave his support as the Western Australian representative on SWA.

Since then, there has been a fatality of a crane operator in June 2023 in Western Australia. An incident of this type had not occurred for some years. The Commissioner believes that the risks associated with access to tower cranes requires further investigation and the publication of the Tower Crane Code provides a good opportunity to do so.

The Commissioner believes there was extensive consultation with stakeholders on this matter when the model Tower Crane Code was being developed. The arbitrary figure of 30m was selected as the point beyond which regularly climbing on a long ladder may increase the risk of musculoskeletal injury and fatigue.

Formerly tower cranes were designed such that access could be gained from a building to the highest part of the crane possible. However, freestanding cranes have now been developed, and crane operators must climb up a long way to operate the crane. This situation may be improved by consulting with designers and importers. Stakeholders such as the Crane Industry Council of Australia and the ACTU need to be consulted. Discussions will take place shortly.

The Commissioner clarified that the “approval” of the Tower Crane Code by the Minister for Industrial Relations (the Minister) refers to approval of the code itself. A CCIWA representative suggested that this be made clearer in future and that, following approval by the Minister, model codes be referred to the WHSC to determine whether they are adopted by Western Australia.

The Minister has agreed that adopting the Tower Crane Code be paused while consultation with industry takes place. If there is to be a lengthy delay, it could be adopted as is and amended at a later date. In any case, the Tower Crane Code would need to be amended, because the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 have unique requirements for tower crane bases.

The WHSC **AGREED** that the Commissioner will report to the next meeting of the WHSC on the results of consultation with industry stakeholders regarding access to tower cranes, thereby deferring a decision on the Tower Crane Code until that time.

ACTION 6 – The Commissioner will report to the next WHSC meeting on discussions with industry stakeholders regarding access to tower cranes.

4.8 **Silica** (standing item)
The Commissioner gave a brief overview of items at the last SWA meeting relating to silica.

4.9 **Transitional provisions** (standing item)
Nil

4.10 **SWA update** (standing item)
The Commissioner gave a brief summary of items discussed at the SWA meeting of 23 March 2023.
Two members queried why SWA does not publish a summary of their meetings. The Commissioner will consider providing a written summary of SWA meetings following endorsement of the minutes.

A CCIWA representative who also attends SWA meetings gave an update on the SWA agenda item concerning the draft Sexual Harassment Code of Practice ('the draft Code'). Following the March 2023 meeting of SWA, feedback received was incorporated into the draft Code. The current consultation period for SWA members concludes on July 17 2023.

The Commissioner gave an update on the SWA agenda item concerning reforms to vocational education and training, reporting that it was referred to a Commonwealth agency for review, with the aim of modernising and consolidating requirements in the VET sector, including a program for compliance activities. Information on this topic is available on the SWA website.

4.11 **COVID-19 pandemic and recovery** (standing item)
The CCIWA representative reported on a media announcement regarding a possible medical breakthrough by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research relating to a cure for long COVID-19 that may reverse damage and prevent infection. Clinical trials will commence shortly.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Nil

6 NEXT MEETING

6.1 2 August 2023 – Next WHSC meeting
CLOSE (11.47am)