



28 June 2005

### Minister calls for submissions for OHS Act review

NSW Minister for Commerce, John Della Bosca, today called for public submissions for the review of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*, following the release of a discussion paper to assist in the preparation of submissions.

"Safe workplaces are productive and profitable," Mr Della Bosca said.

"Practical workplace safety laws benefit all of us.

"This review will examine the objectives and the operation of the Act and will offer ample opportunity for employees, employers and interested parties to provide comment.

"The latest data shows the incidence of injuries and fatalities in NSW workplaces at their lowest levels in 15 years.

"That's a very encouraging trend that we want to continue – while also exploring practical improvements that ensure our safety framework is straightforward, flexible and effective.

"I have asked WorkCover to conduct a wide public consultation during the review process, to ensure the Act meets the changing needs of the State's workforce and its employers.

"Today's release of the discussion paper will assist that process, together with a program of free public information sessions and workshops across metropolitan and regional NSW.

"An OHS Act Reference Group has also been established, comprising the leaders of peak employer and union organisations," said the Minister.

Members of the Reference Group are Mark Goodsell, NSW Director, Australian Industry Group, Mark Lennon, Assistant Secretary, Unions NSW; Greg Pattison, General Manager, Workplace Solutions, Australian Business Limited; Mary Yaager, OHS and Workers Compensation Coordinator, Unions NSW and Greg McCarthy, Chair of the WorkCover Board.

Copies of the discussion paper can be obtained from [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au) or by calling the WorkCover Assistance Service on 13 10 50.

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Submissions can be sent to WorkCover NSW at [ohsact.review@workcover.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ohsact.review@workcover.nsw.gov.au), by fax on 9287 4920, or mailed to the OHS Act Review, WorkCover NSW, Locked Bag 2906, Lisarow NSW 2252.

Details of the free public information sessions to be held across metropolitan and country NSW are as follows:

Wollongong		4 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Wagga		5 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Batemans Bay		6 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Sydney CBD		11 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Parramatta		12 June 05	4:30pm – 6:30pm
Newcastle		14 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Orange		22 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Armidale		20 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am
Coffs Harbour		26 July 05	8:30am – 10.30am

Registration is essential and numbers are limited. Venue details will be sent to participants when they register. To book, email your details (name, contact number, business name, seminar date and location) to [ohsact.seminar@workcover.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ohsact.seminar@workcover.nsw.gov.au). Please bring your registration confirmation with you for entry to the seminar.

**Media contact:** Andrew Plumley 9228 4777 or 0438 455 562

**Further information:** WorkCover Assistance Service 13 10 50  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)