1. The Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (the Bill) implements election commitments made by the Government in the ‘*Improving safety for Queenslanders at work*’ policy platform.
2. Key changes being given effect by the Bill include:
* allowing work health and safety (WHS) entry permit holders to enter a workplace immediately if they suspect a contravention has occurred and provide notice of entry as soon as is reasonably practicable afterwards, removing the requirement to provide at least 24 hours’ notice of entry;
* reinstating the power for a trained health and safety representatives (HSR) to direct a worker in their work group to cease work if they have a reasonable concern that to carry out the work would expose the worker to a serious and immediate or imminent risk to their health and safety, which is consistent with the model work health and safety laws;
* allowing HSRs to request the immediate assistance of any person at the workplace, removing the requirement for at least 24 hours’ notice before the assistant can access the workplace;
* removing the penalty for failing to provide notice of entry to inquire into a suspected contravention of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, consult and advise workers and make copies of documents relevant to a suspected contravention. This penalty does not exist in the model WHS laws;
* reducing the maximum penalty for contravening WHS entry permit conditions from 200 penalty units to 100 penalty units; and
* reinstating a requirement from the repealed *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* for the Work Health and Safety Regulator to be notified of workplace injuries that result in a worker being off work for more than four days.
1. The Government’s policy platform also committed to improving electrical safety by re-instating the Electrical Safety Commissioner, Electrical Education Committee and the Electrical Equipment Committee. The Bill amends the *Electrical Safety Act 2002* to give effect to this commitment.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
* [Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)