1. Section 193A of the *Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003* (the Act) provides an entitlement of additional lump sum compensation to injured workers who were adversely affected by the common law threshold in place between 15 October 2013 and 31 January 2015. A worker injured during this period who had been assessed as having a 5 per cent or lower degree of permanent impairment is prohibited from seeking damages at common law.
2. The *Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014* provides for the establishment of the Statutory Adjustment Scheme Review Panel of appropriately qualified persons to review a decision by an insurer to deny an injured worker an entitlement to this compensation. Nominations were sought from legal professional associations including the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society and the Australian Lawyers Alliance.
3. Section 36D of the Act deems twelve specified diseases diagnosed in current or former firefighters to be injuries for the purposes of the Act if the claimant has served the respective qualifying period of employment as a firefighter.
4. The consultation process on the *Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* (the Bill) identified that firefighters may have difficulty demonstrating the necessary qualifying period of employment given a lack of detailed attendance and membership records. This was a particular concern for volunteer firefighters.
5. In recognition of these concerns, the Queensland Parliament’s Finance and Administration Committee’s report on the Bill recommended that the proposed deemed disease provisions for firefighters be supported by a legislated “committee or panel to be established to consider exposures and assist in determining whether rebuttal of claims are warranted”.
6. The Government supported the establishment of the Deemed Disease Review Panel to assist WorkCover in determining the claim of a firefighter who lacks detailed evidence of their active firefighting service and considered the panel should be established administratively rather than under the Act as it is likely to meet on an infrequent, ad hoc basis.
7. Cabinet noted the appointment of the following members of the Statutory Adjustment Scheme Review Panel for a term of five years commencing from the date of Ministerial appointment:
* Chairperson - Ms Rebecca Treston QC
* Member and alternate chairperson - Mr Richard Lynch
* Members - Ms Julie Cameron; Mr Luke Murphy; Ms Laura Neil; and Mr Ken Taylor.
1. Cabinet endorsed the establishment of the Deemed Disease Review Panel and the appointment of the following members for a term of three years from the date of Ministerial appointment:
* Chair – Mr Mike Wassing
* Members – Mr Alan Gillespie; Ms Janene Hillhouse; Ms Janine Reid; Mr Adrian Williams; and Mr Rodger Sambrooks.
1. *Attachments*
* Nil.