1. The Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 implements outcomes from the review of the model Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws in Queensland. The aim of the review was to consider the impact of the laws on business, and identify any aspects that were considered unworkable or have had unintended consequences including unanticipated cost burdens.
2. Key changes being given effect by the Bill include:
* requiring at least 24 hours notice by WHS entry permit holders before they can enter a workplace to inquire into a suspected contravention to align with the other entry notification periods in the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the *Fair Work Act 2009*;
* introducingmore robust enforcement tools for the WHS Regulator to deal with right of entry breaches including increased penalties for non-compliance with entry permit conditions and new penalties for failure to comply with the entry notification requirements;
* requiring at least 24 hours notice before any person assisting a health and safety representative can have access to the workplace;
* removing the power of health and safety representatives to direct workers to cease unsafe work – this duplicates the existing statutory right of individuals to cease work on safety grounds, who are best placed to make this decision;
* removing the requirement for a person conducting a business or undertaking to provide a list of health and safety representatives to the WHS Regulator - this is a red tape burden that provides no safety benefit; and
* allowing national codes of practice adopted in Queensland to be varied or revoked without requiring national consultation.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)