

# EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND SKILLS COMMITTEE

## REPORT No. 7

on the

### WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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#### INTRODUCTION

On 17 April 2024, the Workers' Compensation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into the Queensland Parliament. After its introduction, the Bill was referred to the Education, Employment, Training and Skills Committee (Committee), with a reporting date of 7 June 2024.

On 7 June 2024, the Committee tabled its report (No. 7, 57<sup>th</sup> Parliament) on the Bill.

The Queensland Government response to the Committee's report and recommendations is provided below.

#### RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

##### **Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends the Bill be passed.

##### ***Government response***

The Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes this recommendation.

##### **Recommendation 2**

The Committee recommends further consultation be undertaken with stakeholders on proposed amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* relating specifically to the appeal pathways for full bench decisions of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC).

##### ***Government response***

The Government notes this recommendation.

The amendments included in the Bill to change the appeal pathway for QIRC matters where a Presidential Member sits on the full bench (for the appeal to lie in the Queensland Court of Appeal (QCA) instead of the Industrial Court of Queensland (ICQ)), was considered an appropriate amendment given that it would provide for appropriate hierarchical/seniority arrangements and consistency with the broader Queensland judicial system. It was not intended to impact the QIRC's character as a lay jurisdiction given the legal and technical nature of appeals that would arise from a matter considered by a Full Bench including a Presidential Member.

The Government acknowledges the stakeholder feedback, particularly from the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council of Unions and affiliate member unions, and in light of this feedback, it is proposed clauses 13 and 14 be removed from the Bill as amendments during consideration in detail, and further consultation with stakeholders will be conducted.