

DEPARTMENT OF  
THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND JUSTICE

# Work Health and Safety Advisory Council

Annual Report  
2023-2024

**NT**Work**Safe**



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## Function of the Work Health and Safety Advisory Council

The Work Health and Safety Advisory Council (the Council) is established under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (the Act) to carry out the following functions in accordance with schedule 2(3) of the Act:

- Keep under review the operation of the Act.
- Make recommendations to the Minister on possible changes to the administration of the Act or standards of work health and safety in the Northern Territory.
- At the Ministers request, investigate and report on matters relating to work health and safety.
- Perform any other advisory functions relating to work health and safety as the Minister directs.

## Meetings of the Work Health and Safety Advisory Council

In accordance with schedule 2(9) of the Act, the Council must meet when directed by the Minister to do so, and at any other time the Chair considers appropriate.

## Membership of the Work Health and Safety Advisory Council

In accordance with schedule 2(4) of the Act, the Council membership consists of:

- The Work Health Authority.
- Not more than 10 other persons appointed by the Minister, which includes:
  - Persons with a wide range of experience extending as far as possible across all major industry sectors in the Territory, and
  - As far as is practicable, consists of equal numbers of representatives of organisations representing employees.

## Work Health and Safety Advisory Council Members

On 10 August 2022, a new Council consisting of the following membership was appointed by the then Minister for two years.

### Peggy Cheong –NT WorkSafe - Work Health Authority

Ms Cheong was appointed as the Work Health Authority on 18 June 2022. Ms Cheong is also the Executive Director of NT WorkSafe, the Electrical Safety Regulator, the Chief Inspector under the *Radioactive Ores and Concentrates (Packaging and Transport) Act 1980*, the Northern Territory member of Safe Work Australia, and a member on the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities.

### **Mr Richard Finch – Chair**

Mr Finch is the General Manager of INPEX Australia Pty Ltd (NT). Mr Finch has been working in leadership roles as a HSE professional across various industries including: Defence, Mining, Offshore and Onshore Oil and Gas in various states of Australia for over 20 years.

### **Mr Mark Davies – Deputy Chair**

Mr Davies is the Director for EHS Essential Services. Mr Davies has over 32 years' experience in the work health and safety section. Mr Davies qualifications include a Master of Occupational Health Safety and Environment Management and a Graduate Certificate in Spatial Science.

### **Mr Lloyd Pumpa**

Mr Pumpa is the NT Organiser for the National Tertiary Education Union. Before that, Mr Pumpa was employed as a Boiler Maker and Health and Safety Representative at INPEX Australia Pty Ltd.

### **Mr Lucas Hemsley**

Mr Hemsley is a Field Organiser for the Community and Public Sector Union. He has a certificate IV in Work Health and Safety and he demonstrates knowledge and qualifications of Work Health and Safety and experience in industry such as, not for profit organisations, private security, Hospitality and civil construction including high-risk work.

### **Ms Sandra Alp**

Ms Alp is employed as a Safety and Environment Advisor with Sunbuild Pty Ltd. Ms Alp has over 20 years' experience in Work Health and Safety that included work in a regulatory role, the WHSE Manager in the commercial construction industry, WHS Business Partner with Local Government and Work Health and Safety consultancy roles. Prior to this Ms Alp was a Registered Nurse at the Royal Darwin Hospital. Ms Alp has served on a number of committees over the years including the Australian Institute of Health and Safety, Neighbourhood Watch Board, and the Rail Safety Committee.

### **Mr Paul McHugh**

Mr McHugh is the Manager for Health, Safety and environment for Core Lithium. He has significant experience in Work Health and Safety management in the Northern Territory Mining Industry. He has worked as an associate in the Environmental Management, Permitting, and Compliance team with SLR Consulting and as a Mining Officer in the Department of Resources.

### **Mr Adam Giuliani (resigned 16 October 2023)**

Mr Giuliani was employed with Unions NT as the Project Officer for Work Health and Safety. Mr Giuliani served in the Australian Defence Force for 20 years', completing tours in East Timor and Iraq. Following voluntary discharge Mr Giuliani was employed in the Mining, Construction, and LNG Construction industries.

### **Mr Jeffrey Weldon (resigned 30 January 2024)**

Mr Weldon was previously the Chair of the NT Branch, Australian Institute of Health and Safety (AIHS). Mr Weldon has over 40 years' experience working as a chartered and certified safety professional. Mr Weldon has lived and worked all over the world implementing Integrated Management Systems with a diverse portfolio of customers including, Chevron, Bechtel, Motorola, Foster Wheeler, Sinopec, the United States Department of Energy and Defence, Exxon, Lucent, Shell, Santos, and Merck.

### **Mr Phillip Tonks**

Mr Tonks is a Work Health and Safety Manager with PTM Group. He has over 30 years' of experience in various WHS roles with a wide range of industry sectors including, telecommunications, dredging, health, agriculture and construction.

Mr Tonks also manages a training business and works as a Lead Certification Auditor for two certification bodies DNV GL, and Certex International.

Between 2023-2024 Council members, Adam Guiliani and Jeffrey Weldon resigned from their positions on the Advisory Council for various reasons.

During 2023-24 the following members were appointed to the Council:

### **Dr Amber Jarrett**

Dr Jarrett is currently the Principal Policy Advisor at the Minerals Council of Australia, Northern Territory Division. Dr Jarrett represents the NT on the National Minerals Industry Work Health and Safety Advisory Council and works with national and state mineral industry peak bodies towards eliminating fatalities, injuries and occupational illnesses and building respectful workplaces.

### **Ms Emily Kilpatrick**

Ms Kilpatrick is currently the Senior Industrial Liaison Officer at the NT Working Women's Centre. She provides industrial relation information, advice and representation to NT women experiencing work related issues. Ms Kilpatrick also promotes the work of the centre and liaises with key stakeholders such as the government, non-government organisations, community organisations and registered organisations.

## Activities of the Advisory Council for 2023-2024

The Council met on four occasions during 2023-2024:

- 25 September 2023;
- 20 November 2023;
- 25 March 2024; and
- 17 June 2024.

The key issues and items the council addressed/considered include:

- NT WorkSafe overview paper - WHS matters in the Beetaloo area;
- QLD Code of Practice - Construction and operation of solar farms;
- Resources for NT WorkSafe to undertake the functions of the Work Health and Safety National Uniform Legislation;
- De-identified statistics from NT WorkSafe relating to work related mental health concerns and psychosocial hazards;
- NT WorkSafe's Planned Activities;
- The Lyons Review progress; and
- NT WorkSafe Prosecution Reports.

## Committees

Under section 10 of the Act the Council may establish committees to assist it to carry out its functions.

During 2023-2024 a Resources Committee was established.

The Resources Committee met on two occasions during the 2023–2024 period;

- 13 May 2024; and
- 24 June 2024.

Key issues discussed included:

- considered whether there are appropriate resources and streams within NT WorkSafe to support the Work Health and Safety National Uniform Legislation;
- if required, considered the most suitable resourcing structure for NT WorkSafe; and
- revisited Recommendation 16 of the Best Practice Review of Workplace Health and Safety in the NT ("the Lyons Review").

## Planned Activities of the Advisory Council for 2024-2025

Proposed work to be undertaken by the Council in 2024-2025 include:

- monitoring trends in prosecutions in relation to the number of proceedings, success rate and penalties awarded;
- recommendations by the Resources Committee regarding a classification change for Inspectors; and
- recommendations by the Resources Committee regarding a budget line for NT WorkSafe's prosecution work.