

Modernising Work Health and Safety Laws in Western Australia

Submission by the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association

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31 August 2018

Safety Regulation – Submission on Work Health and Safety (WHS) Reform

The Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) is the peak national body representing Australia's oil and gas exploration and production industry. We have 60 full members operating in both onshore and offshore environments and 130 associate members providing services to the industry. Our member companies account for the vast majority of exploration and around 98 per cent of total oil and gas production in Australia.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to industry views on modernisation of WHS laws and specifically the application of the model Work Health and Safety Act (the Act). In general, APPEA supports the submission from the WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) in relation to the implications for industry from implementation of the Act.

It is noted that Safe Work Australia's (SWA) evidence to the Senate Education and Employment References Committee's Inquiry into Work Health and Safety of Workers in the Offshore Petroleum Sector¹ states that the model Act is generally not applied to the offshore petroleum sector as these activities are better catered for in industry-specific legislation.²

While it is understood that the model act will be supported by industry-specific regulations, there are a number of concerns raised in the submission by CME which relate to powers enshrined in the overarching Act. Our view is that these concerns warrant further review of the draft model Act.

APPEA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this review.

Yours sincerely

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⁵ See Page 2 of Safe Work Australia Submission:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/WHSinoffshorepetroleum/Submissions.

² See evidence provided at Public Hearing by SWA on 11 July 2018.