



27 September, 2016

The Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into the provisions of the Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill.

I write to express support for the submission of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) to this Inquiry. In particular, the AMWU would like to highlight the negative impact that the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) had on safety in the construction industry when it was last in place.

There is nothing more important than ensuring that workers get home safely from work each day. However, the data available clearly shows that the impact of introducing draconian anti-worker and anti-union laws like those proposed in this Bill is an increase in deaths in the workplace.

The Bill, though the Building Code, will also apply to many workplaces well outside what would traditionally be thought of as the Construction Industry. When it last operated, AMWU members in a business that manufactured carpets were covered by the building code because a small part of the company's business was supplying carpets that were later installed on building sites. This was a common story for any manufacturing workers who produced any material used in construction and many maintenance workers that had never set foot on a building site in their lives.

Despite the problems the poorly drafted scope of the building code has caused in the past, the same situation will be repeated if this legislation is passed. As such this legislation will apply to a whole range of workers that could not reasonably be described as being part of the building and construction industry.

These laws should not apply to any worker in Australia, they are unfair and place an unreasonable limitation on the rights of the affected workers.

The Bill should continue to be opposed by the Senate.

Yours faithfully,

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NATIONAL SECRETARY

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