

WORKERS COMPENSATION AND INJURY MANAGEMENT BILL — SUBMISSIONS

1192. Hon BEN DAWKINS to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:

I refer to the passage of the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023 and the submissions of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union and Australian Lawyers Alliance opposing clauses 12, 7, 148 and 152 regarding excluding contract workers from coverage, excluding claims for stress and psychological harm and closing off common law settlements under section 92(f) of the 1981 act respectively. I note that UnionsWA and the Community and Public Sector Union–Civil Service Association of WA did not support the first two aforementioned reforms in their submissions either.

- (1) Can the minister confirm he personally read the submissions in relation to this bill from the CFMEU and Unions WA?
- (2) Given that by ignoring the strong objections of the union movement, and the CFMEU in particular, to the bill amounts to effectively excluding them from the consultation process, will the minister convene an emergency meeting of every union leader in the state as occurred when the CFMEU was excluded from a construction industry working group earlier this year?
- (3) Will the minister ring Mick Buchan to personally apologise for the CFMEU being ignored, in the same way that the Leader of the House rang Mick to apologise over the construction working group fiasco?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

- (1)–(3) The subject matter of the question was considered at length during the committee stage of the recent Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2023. The submissions referred to in the question that were made by unions were related to the published draft bill. As was made clear during the consideration of the bill, many changes were made to the draft bill in the light of their and other stakeholder concerns. The Minister for Industrial Relations and his staff have regularly met with union leaders in Western Australia to discuss these issues and many others. It is simply wrong to suggest that the CFMEU were in any way excluded from consultations on the bill.

The member might want to talk to the unions before he starts making allegations on their behalf.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: That is part of my answer! It is part of *Hansard* now.

Hon Ben Dawkins: Have you read the submissions?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: Did you? Can you, even?

The PRESIDENT: Order!