

Manager Policy and Legislative Services
WorkCover WA
2 Bedbrook Place
Shenton Park WA 6008

10 April 2026

By Email: consultation@workcover.wa.gov.au

Dear Manager Policy and Legislative Services,

Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023
Proposed Act Amendments

I am writing to you as the **Secretary of the WA Branch of the Electrical Trades Union of Australia.**

The Electrical Trades Union of Australia (ETU)¹ welcomes the opportunity to contribute feedback on proposed technical amendments to the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023* (the Act) to address issues associated with the implementation of the Act.

The ETU advocates for amendments to the Act that will ensure the act operates as intended, in a way that practically supports workers in line with international best practice workers' compensation principles.

The ETU supports submissions of the Asbestos Disease Society of Australia Inc (ADSA) and allied organisations in this consultation. The ETU is concerned that changes to the Act have the effect of unduly delaying the commencement and assessment of dust disease claims, imposing additional costs, and facilitating further delays in regulated settlement agreement processes, all of which is prejudicial to the interests of workers with dust disease. In line with the ADSA submissions, the ETU recommends:

1. WorkCover WA exempts workers with a dust disease from the requirement to obtain a first certificate of capacity.
2. WorkCover WA, or the underlying private insurer, funds the cost of all medical reports requested by the DDMP for workers with a dust disease.
3. That this settlement agreement process be urgently revised to take account of and make adjustments for the unique requirements of workers with dust diseases.
4. The DDMP accepted injuries list be immediately expanded to include all injuries currently accepted by the equivalent scheme in NSW.
5. For dust diseases, abolish time limits and common law thresholds in WA.

¹ Being a division of the Communications Electrical Electronic Energy Information Postal Plumbing and Allied Services Union of Australia (CEPU).

The ETU has been at the forefront of campaigning from the union movement to minimise the exposure of workers to asbestos. Despite national bans, electrical workers continue to be exposed at work to asbestos and are at increased risk of developing an asbestos disease. As recently as October 2025, asbestos-containing material was found to be in fire-doors installed by Multiplex at the Edith Cowan University (ECU) city campus. In response, the ETU has called for an audit of similar installations across WA government projects to establish the extent of the exposure risk. At the same time, the ETU highlighted exposure risks associated with asbestos-containing materials in brake pads imported for use in the lift motors and hoists of wind turbines.

The ETU has also actively campaigned to for regulatory responses to the hazard of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) and welcomed a national ban on the import of engineered stone containing silica from 1 July 2024. The ETU continues to advocate for the elimination and better mitigation of the exposure of workers to silica dust throughout the construction industry.

It is of utmost importance to the ETU that WCIM Act 2023 provide relief to workers suffering from any dust-related pathology. It is indefensible that the Act does not currently cover silica and dust-related disease including silica-induced lung cancer, dust-induced COPD and emphysema, dust-induced occupational asthma, and silica-induced autoimmune and systemic diseases. Noting the vulnerabilities of workers with dust diseases, it is critical that the time limits, pre-assessment requirements, and settlement processes mandated by the WCIM Act 2023 be revised with a view to minimising delays and unnecessary costs to the worker.

The ETU appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this process and looks forward to continued engagement. If you have any questions, please direct correspondence to the writer at

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Yours sincerely,

Adam Woodage

Secretary of the WA Branch

Electrical Trades Union of Australia