



The Hon Greg Pearce MLC

Minister for Finance and Services

Minister for the Illawarra

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORKCOVER REFORMS TO BE FAST-TRACKED

Minister for Finance & Services, Greg Pearce, today said that the Government will fast track urgent reforms needed in WorkCover and the Compensation Authorities after receiving the resignations of the Chairman, Greg McCarthy and CEO Lisa Hunt.

“I have made it clear that the WorkCover scheme in its current form is untenable - the deficit is growing and WorkCover must be reformed to get it back in the black,” Mr Pearce said.

“Both Mr McCarthy and Ms Hunt agreed there was a need to reform WorkCover and the government will now move to press ahead with the reforms under a new leadership team,” he said.

“The reforms will be fast-tracked with Deputy Chair, Nicholas Whitlam, acting as Chair and current Chief Financial Officer, Julie Newman, acting as CEO until replacements are appointed.

“One of the possible reform options, developed by Mr McCarthy, includes merging WorkCover and the four other compensation authorities - the Motor Accidents Authority, Dust and Diseases Tribunal, Sporting Injuries Committee and Lifetime Care and Support Authority to achieve savings.

“It is clear we are only in the position we are in today because the previous Labor failed to institute these vital reforms despite the warnings of Mr McCarthy and others.

“I thank Mr McCarthy and Ms Hunt for their tireless work following their independent decisions to step down.

“Mr McCarthy has been a dedicated member of the Board of WorkCover since 2002, including the position of Chair since 2005, and was in the process of developing the reforms to turn the scheme around.

“His commitment to get the best out of the board and the organisation he chaired is to be commended but he has advised me that he believed it was time for a fresh approach.

“Ms Hunt has been CEO since 2010 and was instrumental in driving change in the workplace including the implementation of the new Work, Health and Safety regime.

“I thank Ms Hunt for her dedication to her role and wish her all the best in her future endeavours,” Mr Pearce said.

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