

From: Scott Cornwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 December 2015 5:00 PM
To: SI Feedback
Subject: Submission: Review of the self-insurer licensing framework

Dear SIRA,

I would like to submit feedback regarding the review of the self-insurer licensing framework.

I am a Physiotherapist, Ergonomist, Safety Professional, Trainer and Auditor that has been working in Health and Safety for over 20 years. I have worked for Self-Insurers as an employee and contractor for many of those years. I have also worked in hospitals and seen the devastating results of unsafe practices.

I support the current self-insurer licensing framework. I support the current regulatory monitoring of Self-Insurers, in particular NAT auditing by the Regulator. Regarding NAT audit frequencies, I support the current 3 year audit frequency for those Self-Insurers that meet the benchmarks and annual audits for Self-Insurers that don't meet the benchmarks.

I have visited many workplaces and observed first hand that Self-Insurers' that are motivated by the anticipation of a Regulator Safety Audit maintain safer workplaces than employers that expect to go unchecked.

Myself and my family have mostly lived in Council areas that are Self-Insured and have noted improved safety standards in those communities of Self-Insured Councils compared to non-Self-Insurers. I'm comforted when my family visits retailers or health care facilities that are Self-Insured. I feel more confident exposing my family to purchases, such as building materials like delivered ready mixed concrete, from Self-Insurers that do have some degree of safety checks. I prefer to utilise transport providers and food manufacturers that are Self-Insured and likely to have better safety standards. I believe that due to the diversity of Self-Insurers and the services they provide to the state's residents, having safer Self-Insurers not only benefits their workers but all NSW families. I fear that reducing a very reasonable level of scrutiny (3 yearly NAT auditing that I understand the majority of Self-Insurers comfortably pass) will compromise safety.

I believe that the Regulator (formerly WorkCover NSW) currently has the right balance in their approach to auditing and that extending this period to more than 3 years would be detrimental to the safety standards within the Self-Insurers' workplaces and everyone exposed to the risks arising from their activities. I know it would be impossible for the Regulator to visit every employer in NSW but am reassured that a reasonable sample of workplaces are audited under self-insurer licensing NAT auditing arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Cornwell