

25 March 2024

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The Honourable Grace Grace  
Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister  
for Racing  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002  
By email: [industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister

### **Engineered stone ban – transitional arrangements**

I am writing in relation to the recent meeting of Work Health and Safety Ministers to agree on key implementation matters associated with prohibiting the use of engineered stone.

We are disappointed Ministers did not agree on transitional arrangements, and that the meeting Communique stated only that “Ministers agreed jurisdictions may adopt a transition period for contracts entered into prior to the announcement of the prohibition”.

We hope that you stand by the commitment in the Communique from the *Work Health and Safety and Workplace Relations Ministers' Meeting* on 13 December 2023, stating that “Ministers also agreed there is a need for a transition period for contracts entered into on or before today’s date”.

Further to that, on 8 March 2024, information was published by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland that “details of the ban will be finalised by Work Health and Safety Ministers in the coming weeks. This will include providing limited transitional arrangements for contracted work agreed to before the ban was announced in December 2023”<sup>1</sup>.

Businesses have read these commitments and have been preparing for a transitional period (that is, beyond 1 July 2024) for contracts entered into before 13 December 2023.

Any deviation from this approach will be costly to the majority of small businesses in Queensland affected by the ban, who have demonstrated since the implementation of two codes of practice in Queensland dealing with silica, that they can work safely with this product.

Without a transition period beyond 1 July 2024 for existing contracts, businesses will incur additional costs that will be passed on to consumers. These costs will be associated with disposing of stock unable to be used and having to source alternatives, as well as indirect costs associated with delays in obtaining alternatives and being able to complete projects for consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/news-and-events/news/2024/engineered-stone-ban-in-effect-from-1-july-2024>

We urge you to honour the commitment to a transition period for existing contracts to 31 December 2024.

Yours sincerely,

**Paul Bidwell**  
CEO