

# FACT SHEET

## Explosives Bill 2011

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- This Bill is one of a package of Bills developed to give effect to the national model work health and safety laws in Tasmania.
- The purpose of this Bill is to repackage and preserve Tasmania's laws on the storage and handling of explosives. This is necessary because of the impact of the introduction of new work health and safety laws on the *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act 2005*.
- The national Model Work Health and Safety Regulations contain two chapters that are intended to regulate much the same matters as the Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act. These are the chapters on hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities.
- The Bill therefore repeals the Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act, to prevent the duplication and confusion that would otherwise arise when the national model work health and safety laws come into effect.
- The hazardous chemicals chapter of the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations does not cover explosives. Explosives laws are the subject of a separate national harmonization process, and national model explosives laws are not expected to come into effect for up to about three years.
- Because large quantities of explosives can cause the sort of catastrophic events that major hazard facilities laws are intended to prevent, facilities that hold such quantities of explosives are covered by the major hazard facilities chapter of the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations.

- The Explosives Bill fills the gap that would be created if additional laws were not put in place. The Bill aims to protect the safety of persons, and prevent harm to property and the environment, from the effects of handling explosives.
- In this Bill, the provisions of the Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Act, which currently apply to explosives, have been rewritten to refer to explosives specifically, rather than dangerous substances generally. However, the provisions dealing with major hazard facilities are not included, because explosives are included in the relevant provisions of the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations.
- This Bill, in conjunction with the proposed work health and safety laws, will as far as possible maintain the status quo so far as the requirements of explosives laws are concerned.
- The requirements of the Bill will be supported by proposed Explosives Regulations which will be based on the requirements of the current *Dangerous Substances (Safe Handling) Regulations 2009*.
- The Bill also contains the necessary consequential and transitional provisions arising from the new legislative arrangements.