CLAUSE NOTES

Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2023

Clause 1   **Short title**

This clause provides that, once passed, the Bill will be cited as the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Act 2023*.

Clause 2   **Commencement**

This clause provides that the Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3   **Principal Act**

This clause provides that the Principal Act that is being amended is the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (the WRC Act).

Clause 4   **Section 27 amended (Presumption as to cause of certain diseases in relation to fire-fighters)**

This clause inserts a new subsection (subsection (7A)) into section 27 of the WRC Act to ensure that the power to amend Schedule 5 by regulation is preserved.

The proposed new subsection (7A) makes it clear that the fact that Schedule 5 has been amended by an Act of Parliament does not prevent any further amendments to the Schedule from being made by regulation in accordance with section 27(7).

Clause 5   **Schedule 5 amended (Diseases, of Fire-fighters, in Respect of Which There is Presumption of Cause)**

This clause makes amendments to Schedule 5 to include nine additional diseases.

This clause proposes to insert nine additional diseases into Schedule 5. These diseases are types of cancer. The nine additional diseases, along with their corresponding qualifying periods are:

- Primary site cervical cancer – 10 years;
- Primary site ovarian cancer – 10 years;
- Primary site penile cancer – 15 years;
- Primary site thyroid cancer – 10 years;
- Primary site pancreatic cancer – 10 years;
- Primary site skin cancer – 15 years;
- Primary site lung cancer – 15 years;
- Primary site uterine cancer – 10 years; and
- Malignant mesothelioma – 15 years.

Clause 6   Repeal of Act

This clause automatically repeals the amending legislation 12 months after the Act is fully commenced. This is because the amendments are incorporated into the Principal Act, and will remain in force after the repeal of the Amending Act.