

# Business backs work law

**LAUREN NOVAK**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

BUSINESS SA has thrown its support behind the State Government's controversial work safety legislation.

The Government is attempting to change occupational health and safety laws after a federal agreement to streamline arrangements across the states.

The proposed laws will put more responsibility on every member of an organisation to ensure safety in the workplace.

Business groups have been concerned about the laws increasing compliance costs.

Business SA chief executive Peter Vaughan said the initial legislation "created enormous

uncertainty" as to who was ultimately responsible for safety outcomes in the workplace.

But through meetings with Industrial Relations Minister Russell Wortley, Mr Vaughan said changes had been made which meant Business SA could support the Bill.

"We are pleased that the Government has agreed to address the concerns of business regarding control (over workplace safety), while also retaining the current South Australian provisions of the right to silence (for people involved in an accident)," he said.

The Housing Industry Associ-

ation has said the laws will push up the cost of building a single-storey house by \$20,000 because of greater compliance costs. However, Mr Wortley said it was more likely to be an increase of no more than \$2000.

Mr Wortley said recent changes agreed to with business gave "further clarity for employers to fully understand the extent of their responsibilities to protect workers from injuries, illness and fatalities".

The fate of the Bill is now likely to come down to the vote of MP John Darley.