

Hon Rob Lucas MLC

Shadow Minister for Finance
Shadow Minister for Public Sector Management
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations

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Libs move to delay national work safety bill

The Liberal Opposition will move this week to prevent the Government's controversial Work, Health and Safety legislation from commencing on 1 January 2012.

The South Australian Government has announced it wants debate on the *Work, Health and Safety Bill* completed this week to enable the law to commence at the start of next year.

Shadow Industrial Relations Minister Rob Lucas said the Liberal Party will seek the support of minor parties and independents in the Legislative Council this week to adjourn the debate on the bill until next year.

In recent weeks, both the Western Australian and Victorian governments have announced they have delayed by up to 12 months the introduction of these supposedly national, 'harmonised' laws. In fact, in both these states the model bill has not even been introduced into parliament.

"The Weatherill Government has continued to ignore the growing concern from industry organisations about the impact on housing affordability and the costs of doing business. Employer groups such as Business SA, the Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Association, Motor Traders Association, Australian Hotels Association, Civil Contractors Federation, Self Insurers of South Australia, and Independent Contractors Australia are all supporting significant amendments to the legislation," Mr Lucas said.

"It is also now clear there is no prospect of 'harmonised' work safety laws operation in all states and territories. Already New South Wales has amended the 'model bill' and the Western Australian Government has indicated they will also amend the model bill. The Victorian Government may also amend the model bill.

"In fact, the Victorian Government has claimed the Federal Government's Regulatory Impact Statement has not assessed the impact of the bill and regulations on Victorian businesses. The Victorian Government is now ensuring this work is undertaken.

"The Weatherill Government also has not done any analysis on the impact on South Australian businesses and costs and this work should now be undertaken before the final decision is made on the bill."

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