

Record of conversation with DLO in Minister Watt's office

Tuesday, 28 January

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a) 28/01 12:50 pm Edited

Hi The Minister has just signed MS25-000025. Before I finalise it on PDMS, can I please confirm that the TAS letter that came through this morning doesn't impact this appointment? I note that the response was provided later than the date we specified in our consultation letter. Thanks 😊

28/01 12:51 pm

I haven't seen that letter yet. Are you able to quickly forward a copy for my review to advise?

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a) 28/01 12:52 pm

Will do now 😊



I think we should link this corro to the PDMS record - happy for you to do that or we can do it here

s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii) 28/01 1:01 pm

Thanks for your advice! I'll give S a call and flag it- I'll let you know how I go. Parliamentary will link it to MS24-000947



s 22(1)(a)(ii) s 22(1)(a) 28/01 1:11 pm

s 22(1)(a)(ii) are aware and are happy to progress with finalising the appointment. Thanks S



22(

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: DLO Watt
Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 12:53 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: DLO Watt
Subject: FW: [markup] FAA | Safe Work Australia Chair appointment concerns | Felix Ellis [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: SIGNED REPLY - Murray Watt - Appointment of Anthony Maher.PDF
Categories: Key information

Hi s
22(1

Please see the attached letter that the MO received this morning as discussed.

Thanks
s
22(

s 22(1)(a) | Departmental Liaison Officer
Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Froms 22(1)(a)t
Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 10:28 AM
Tos 22(1) -
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: [markup] FAA | Safe Work Australia Chair appointment concerns | Felix Ellis

OFFICIAL	
Responsible Minister	Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Reply Level/Subject	FAA Safe Work Australia Chair appointment concerns Felix Ellis
Response to	Felix Ellis
Content Warning	No
Responsible Division	Workplace Relations Legal
Timeframe	5 days
Drafting Instructions	Coversheet Required: No
	Meeting request: N/A
Related PDRs	MS24-000947

s 22(1)(a)(ii) | Departmental Liaison Officer
Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Minister Ellis <Minister.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 9:52 AM
To: Minister Watt <minister.watt@dewr.gov.au>
Subject: SIGNED REPLY - Murray Watt - Appointment of Anthony Maher

You don't often get email from minister.ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning

On behalf of the Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs, the Hon Felix Ellis MP, please find attached a response to your correspondence.

Kind regards

Eloise
Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Skills and Training
Level 5, Salamanca Building, Parliament Square
4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000

www.premier.tas.gov.au



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Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Skills and Training

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7770
Email: minister.ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au



Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Murray

I write regarding your proposed appointment of Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the conclusion of Ms Joanne Farrell's term.

I must express my significant concerns regarding Mr Maher's suitability for this role. His long history as the General President of the Mining and Energy Union raises legitimate apprehensions about his capacity to act impartially and prioritise the broad interests of Safe Work Australia over the narrower agenda of a union-aligned perspective.

The Chair of Safe Work Australia should and must exhibit impartiality, independence, and the ability to balance diverse stakeholder interests, including employers, employees, and regulators. Mr Maher's longstanding union leadership raises concerns about the potential for politicisation of this position. The chairmanship demands a leader who can approach issues objectively and ensure that Safe Work Australia operates without undue influence from any single interest group. Appointing an individual so closely identified with union advocacy risks undermining confidence in the impartiality of Safe Work Australia's leadership and its ability to make balanced decisions in the national interest.

Ms Farrell's tenure exemplified the qualities required in this position: independence, strategic vision, and a commitment to fostering consensus across the diverse stakeholders of Australia's work health and safety framework. I urge you to ensure her successor embodies similar qualities and is free from affiliations that could cast doubt on their impartiality.

While I recognise Mr Maher's contributions to mine safety, I strongly recommend that you and the Australian Government consider a candidate with demonstrated independence and a broader perspective on workplace safety across various industries. Such an appointment would better reflect the principles of fairness, impartiality, and inclusivity that are essential to maintaining Safe Work Australia's credibility and effectiveness.

Yours sincerely

Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs

23/1/2025

APPOINTMENTS WORKLIST

CURRENT VACANCIES / UPCOMING EXPIRIES
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

SWA – Chair	MO advised 25/10 that Tony Maher to be nominated. Appointment of Joanne Farrell (Chair) expires 31/1.	s	MS25-000025 (Instrument)	<p><u>Status:</u> Brief/instrument and letter signed and dispatched. Secretariat notified 29/01 and appointments tracker updated. OAR to be updated once s has access.</p> <p><u>Related:</u> St/T WHS ministers asked to advise of any concerns by 09/01/25 (only WA responded, in support of proposed appointment). s 34(3)</p>
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Board/Position	Task	Team	PDR	Status and notes
s 22(1)(a)(ii)				s 22(1)(a)(ii) Minister signed letters to s/t WHS Ministers and letter to PM 6/12 (MS24-000947).

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

RE: SWA Chair appointment instrument brief - short turnaround approval request [SEC=PROTECTED, C...



s 22(1)(a)

To: s 22(1)

Cc: DLO Watt; DEWR - WR Appointments; s 22(1)(a)

SWA

PROTECTED/CABINET



Reply

Reply All

Forward



Mon 6/01/2025 10:52 AM

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi S

Yes confirming approval for a short turnaround.

Thanks very much.

S

22(1)



s 22(1)(a)

Director - Workplace Safety and Women's Policy

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

P: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

E: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED//CABINET

From: S 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 6 January 2025 9:47 AM

To: S 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: DLO Watt; s 22(1)(a)(ii); DEWR - WR Appointments; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: SWA Chair appointment instrument brief - short turnaround approval request [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi S

s 34(3)

The appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, expires on Friday 31 January 2025. To avoid a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Minister would need to sign the appointment instrument on or before that date – to give effect to this, grateful if **you could please confirm via return email that you agree to a short turnaround for decision** on the SWA Chair appointment instrument brief.

Kind regards, S

s 22(1)(a)

A/g Chief Counsel

Workplace Relations Legal Division

Dis/Ability and Carers Co-Champion

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Mobile: s 22(1)

dewr.gov.au

PROTECTED//CABINET

RE: For action: appointees contact details [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]



s 22(1)(a)

To: DLO Watt; DEWR - WR Appointments



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Thu 23/01/2025 6:13 PM

PROTECTED\CABINET

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi **s 22(1)(a)**

I've added contact numbers below.

s 22(1)(a)
(ii)

Director/Principal Government Lawyer

Appointments and WR Legislation Team | FEG, Appointments, Compensation and Safety Branch
Workplace Relations Legal Division
Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Phone **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**
dewr.gov.au

*** **Please note:** I work compressed hours and am available to read and respond to emails between 8am and 6pm from Monday to Thursday. If you require urgent same-day assistance on Fridays, please send your enquiry to WRAppointments@dewr.gov.au for appropriate action ***

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and emerging.

PROTECTED//CABINET

From: DLO Watt **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Sent: Thursday, 23 January 2025 5:38 PM

To: DEWR - WR Appointments: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Cc: DLO Watt **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Subject: For action: appointees contact details [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi team,

Grateful if you could please assist with providing contact numbers for the following appointees:

SWA Chair

- Mr Anthony John Maher - **s 47F(1)**

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks,

s 22(1)
(a)(ii)

| Departmental Liaison Officer

Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

PROTECTED//CABINET

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Thursday, 23 January 2025 5:22 PM
 To: DLO Watt - s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: Re: FYI - Cabinet appointments [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi S

Can you please track down phone numbers for these appointees?

Thanks very much.

s 22(1)
 (a)(ii)

PROTECTED//CABINET

From: DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 3:06:36 PM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: FYI - Cabinet appointments [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi all,

s 34(3)

SWA Chair
 • Mr Anthony John Maher

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Many thanks,
 s 22(1)
 (a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer
 Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
 P s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED//CABINET

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 11:38 AM
 To: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: Re: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s yes please.

What's the normal convention with these things - do we have to wait until they've started, or could we announce the day before (Fri)?

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:21 AM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment

DLO Watt

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi team,

As mentioned yesterday, there is an opportunity for a media release to announce the new Chair of Safe Work Australia.

The line area at DEWR has just informed me Minister Watt made the appointment yesterday with the new Chair commencing this Saturday 1 February.

Just wanting to confirm you are still keen to announce this appointment? And is this something you would like to announce on Saturday?

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)
 (ii)

Assistant Director

Media Team | Communication and Media
 People and Communication
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past, present and emerging.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND**

Friday, 31 January 2025

New Chair for Safe Work Australia

Coal mining industry leader Mr Tony Maher has been appointed as the new Chair of Safe Work Australia.

Mr Maher brings a wealth of experience to the role. He previously served for four years as the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd - a specialised health and safety scheme that provides services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. Mr Maher was a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a NSW Government tripartite advisory body on mine safety between 2002 and 2005. He has also been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union since 1998, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety.

He takes over from Ms Joanne Farrell who departs the role having served as Chair since 2022.

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Murray Watt welcomed the appointment of Mr Maher and thanked Ms Farrell for her service.

“Mr Maher brings immense experience to the role and I’m sure he will build on the significant contribution Ms Farrell made to the agency,” Minister Watt said.

“Australian workers have a right to safe and healthy workplaces, and I know Mr Maher will work enthusiastically with employers and workers in his new role.

“Under Ms Farrell’s leadership over the past three years, there is now increased awareness of risks to the work health and safety of their workers, including in relation to silicosis.

“The finalisation of the new national strategy to reduce workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses in Australia is a testament to her work. I would like to thank Ms Farrell for her contribution.”

Mr Maher begins in the role from tomorrow on a three-year term.

CHAIR BIOGRAPHY:

From 2001 to 2005, Tony Maher served as the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry.

He was a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety from 2002 to 2005.

Since 1998, Mr Maher has also been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety and routinely engages with the Commonwealth and state governments on mine safety legislation, standards and codes of practice.

Mr Maher holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales.

MEDIA CONTACT:s 22(1)(a)(ii)

MC24-004478 [markup] FIO | WA support for Safe Work Australia Chair appointment | Simone McGurk [...]



DLO Watt

To: DEWR - Parliamentary

Cc: DLO Watt; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Wed 18/12/2024 5:35 PM

s 22(1)



OFFICIAL

74-79685.pdf .pdf File

OFFICIAL

Responsible Minister	Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Reply Level/Subject	FIO WA support for Safe Work Australia Chair appointment Simone McGurk
Response to	
Outgoing Referral	
Responsible Division	Workplace Relations Legal
Timeframe	N/A (FIO/NFA)
Drafting Instructions	Coversheet Required: No Meeting request: N/A
Related PDRs	MS24-000947

s 22(1)

Departmental Liaison Officer

Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: McGurk, Minister <Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 2:56 PM
To: Minister Watt <minister.watt@dewr.gov.au>
Subject: Correspondence from the Hon Simone McGurk MLA

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL

Our ref: 74-79685

Dear Senator Watt

Please find attached correspondence from the Hon Simone McGurk MLA.

Kind regards



Office of the Hon Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Training and Workforce Development; Water; Industrial Relations
Member for Fremantle

(08) 6552 6600
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street WEST PERTH WA 6005

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OFFICIAL



Hon Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Training and Workforce Development;
Water; Industrial Relations

Our Ref: 74-79685
Your Ref: MS24-000947

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
minister.watt@dewr.gov.au

Dear Senator Watt

Thank you for your correspondence of 6 December 2024 regarding the proposed appointment of Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia.

I support the appointment of Mr Maher to this important role.

Mr Maher will bring long experience of workplace safety issues to the position. His experience in the mining sector will be particularly relevant in the Western Australian context.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the effective performance of Ms Joanne Farrell as the outgoing Chair of Safe Work Australia. Safe Work Australia has delivered important reforms during Ms Farrell's term, including the prohibition of engineered stone and the further requirements for the use of crystalline silica substances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed appointment of Mr Maher.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMcGurk'.

HON SIMONE MCGURK MLA
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

18 December 2024

Level 8, Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth, Western Australia, 6005
Telephone: +61 8 6552 6600 Facsimile: +61 8 6552 6601 Email: Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au

[markup] FIO | Safe Work Australia Chair appointment| Jarrod Bleijie [SEC=OFFICIAL]



DLO Watt

To: DEWR - Parliamentary
DLO Watt

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Tue 21/01/2025 12:14 PM

s 22(1)(a)
(ii)

OFFICIAL

MC24_4654 Letter to Senator Murray Watt.pdf .pdf File

OFFICIAL	
Responsible Minister	Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Reply Level/Subject	FIO Safe Work Australia Chair appointment Jarrod Bleijie
Response to	
Content Warning	No
Responsible Division	Workplace Relations Legal
Timeframe	N/A (FIO/NFA)
Drafting Instructions	Coversheet Required: No Meeting request: N/A
Related PDRs	MS24-000947

s 22(1) | Departmental Liaison Officer
(ii) Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
P: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: OIR DLO <DLO@oir.qld.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 9:34 AM

To: Watt, Murray (Senator) <Senator.Watt@aph.gov.au>

Subject: Correspondence from the Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Minister for Industrial Relations - our ref: MC24/4654 / MINC2024-1463931538-112931

Good morning

Please find attached correspondence from the Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations.

Please do not respond to this email. If you wish to reply, please send your email to industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Kind regards

Executive Services Unit

Department of State Development and Infrastructure
1 William Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

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Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations

Our ref: MC24/4654 / MINC2025-1463931538-113120

20 JAN 2025

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
GPO Box 611 Brisbane
Queensland Australia 4001
Telephone: +61 7 3719 7100
Email: deputy_premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Email: industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
senator.watt@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2024 regarding your proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia (SWA) following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025.

I thank you for consulting with me on your proposed nomination.

I note that Mr Maher's experience and that Mr Maher has been employed as the General President of the Mining and Energy Union since 1998.

I understand that the role of SWA Chair is to be independent and not a representative member, also noting the role of Chair is to ensure fulsome discussions at SWA meetings that seek to hear all views and balance the perspectives of regulators, employer representatives and unions. I trust you will consider whether nominees sufficiently meet the requirement for independence including considering the representative nature of existing roles.

I further trust that all other relevant background and due diligence checks will be undertaken as part of the nomination process for the role of SWA Chair, and that the appointed Chair will undertake this role with the required independence.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Nathan Ruhle, by email at industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au or by telephone on (07) 3719 7100.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations

[markup] FIO | NT support for Safe Work Australia Chair appointment | Marie-Clare Boothby [SEC=OFFI...



DLO Watt

To: DEWR - Parliamentary

Cc: DLO Watt; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Mon 3/02/2025 9:00 AM

OFFICIAL

Senator Watt_ltr.pdf .pdf File

OFFICIAL

Responsible Minister	Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Reply Level/Subject	FIO NT support for Safe Work Australia Chair appointment Marie-Clare Boothby
Response to	
Content Warning	No
Responsible Division	Workplace Relations Legal
Timeframe	N/A (FIO/NFA)
Drafting Instructions	Coversheet Required: No Meeting request: N/A
Related PDRs	MS24-000947

s 22(1)(a) Departmental Liaison Officer
Workplace Relations | Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Sunday, 2 February 2025 2:36 PM

To: Minister Watt <minister.watt@dewr.gov.au>

Subject: Letter from Minister Boothby

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Minister

Please find attached a letter from the Hon Marie-Clare MLA, Attorney-General.

Hard copy to follow in the mail.

Regards

s 22(1)(a) Director Central Registry
Office of the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
Northern Territory Government of Australia

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.boothby@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 8603

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Via email: minister.watt@dewr.gov.au

Dear Senator

Thank you for writing to consult me about your proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of Ms Joanne Farrell's appointment on 31 January 2025.

I note your proposal and have no immediate concerns with the appointment of Mr Anthony Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia.

Thank you for consulting me as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marie-Claire Boothby'.

MARIE-CLARE BOOTHBY

31 JAN 2025



SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA: as at 05/12/2024

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GENDER</u>	<u>POSITION</u> <i>(previous term/s in italics)</i>	<u>FT/PT</u> <i>(previous term/s in italics)</i>	<u>STATE OF RESIDENCE</u>	<u>DATE APPOINTED</u> <i>(previous term/s in italics)</i>	<u>EXPIRY DATE</u> <i>(previous term/s in italics)</i>
s 22(1)(a)(ii)						

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

3. *Proposed appointments*

Anthony MAHER	M	Chair	PT	NSW	01.02.25	For 3 years
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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Due Diligence checks running sheet: Safe Work Australia – Chair – Tony Maher – November 2024

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
Anthony (Tony) Maher DOB: s 47F(1)	s 34(1)(c)	s 12(1)(b)	Nil Results	Nil results	News article in the AFR (attached) where the nominee admonishes the death threats against ACTU Officials, Sally McManus and Michele O’Neil following the external administration of the CFMEU. The nominee is also mentioned in the article saying that moves by exiled CFMEU leaders, the Electrical Trades Union and Plumbers’ Union to start an alternative advocacy group to the ACTU will not last. News articles regarding the nominee quitting his role as National President of the CFMMEU and withdrawing the Mining and Energy Division from the CFMMEU, from CFMMEU forums and activities until March 2021. In an example article in the Sydney Morning Herald (attached) the nominee is quoted saying “The current state of the union does not reflect the spirit of solidarity, consensus and shared vision that has been cultivated over the past decade. Rather, the CFMMEU has become impossibly divided and dysfunctional with no repair in sight.”	61 documents found for Tony Maher and 47 documents found for Anthony Maher Some results did not relate to the appointee due to the common name (such as a Tony Maher who is a legal representative) and have not been included. Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union v BHP Steel (AIS) Pty Ltd [2001] FCA 1758 (12 December 2001) On appeal to the full Federal Court, the CFMEU was held to have been in contempt of a court order by continuing strike action against BHP Steel over coal prices. In the original decision, Justice Kiefel found that the nominee did not do enough in his capacity as General President of the Mining Division when telling NSW CFMEU members to stop their strike action and that this authorised further strike action. Kiefel J held that this was in contempt of the Court order. She also stated that the nominee was not a witness of credit in his recollection of when he was notified of the court order for CFMEU members to stop strike action. In the appeal Justices Lee and Finn held that there was insufficient evidence that the nominee acting in his professional capacity had authorised the NSW miners to continue strike action, in contempt of the court order. Merkel J also held that there was insufficient evidence to show that the CFMEU authorised the continuation of the strike action. Merkel J noted that the CFMEU acted bona fide and properly in the conduct of its appeal which may be contrasted with Kiefel J’s	Nil results. SA Lobbyist was unavailable so was not able to be checked

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
		s 12(1)(b)			<p>News articles – where CFMEU officials criticised the nominee for having discussions with former Industrial Relations Minister Christian Porter on legislation to allow the Mining and Energy Division to demerge from the CFMEU. An example article from The Australian in 2021 is attached.</p> <p>Further News articles in relation to the Mining and Energy Union’s permanent split from the CFMMEU in 2023 and articles around the legislation introduced in 2020 which allowed the demerger to happen.</p> <p>Article (attached) where the nominee called on the federal and Victorian ALP to support former Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull’s national energy guarantee and “<i>politically Labor is better off not having a war with the government on this one</i>”.</p> <p>Article (attached) where the journalist lists the nominee as being the union official with the closest relationship to Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.</p>	<p>finding (in the original decision) that the conduct of the proceedings by officers of the CFMEU was “dishonest and cynical.”</p> <p>R v Macdonald; R v Maitland [2017] NSWSC 638 (2 June 2017) and R v Macdonald; R v Maitland (No 10 â€” verdict) [2022] NSWSC 1765 (20 December 2022)</p> <p>These cases relate to findings that Mr Macdonald, as NSW Minister of Mineral Resources in the course of and connected to his public office wilfully misconducted himself when he granted consent to Doyles Creek Mining Pty Ltd (Doyles Creek Mining) to apply for an exploration licence. Mr John Maitland a former National Secretary of the CFMEU was found to have aided Mr Macdonald in his misconduct and received the benefit of having the license granted. Mr Maitland had in his proposal for an exploration license that the mine would also be used as a training mine to improve safety training for miners.</p> <p>Mr Maher is mentioned in the context of providing evidence about the relationship between Mr Maitland and Mr Macdonald and whether the CFMEU endorsed a training mine proposal. Mr Maher gave evidence that he indicated to Mr Macdonald that the CFMEU did not support a training mine proposal because there were no commitments from mining companies to employ the trainees or recognise their qualifications. There were no adverse findings or comments in relation to the appointee.</p>	

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
					<p>Article (attached) in 2020 where the nominee is listed as the top earning union official in the CFMEU at \$287,470 which was more than the ACTU's Secretary, Sally McManus and President, Michele O'Neil.</p> <p>Article (attached) in Workplace Express in 2008 where Appointee notes that the CFMEU supports Rudd's mandatory target for renewable energy and its plan to establish an emissions trading scheme and called for the Rudd government to set up a permanent climate change advisory council to develop a national plan of action for global warming, which he said was "<i>a crisis nothing short of a world war</i>".</p> <p>AFR Article where nominee indicates the MEU's support for the same job same pay measures introduced by the Closing Loopholes legislation and that the Union will fight these measures being repealed by a future Coalition government.</p> <p>Article where the nominee criticises BHP's statement that same job same pay would cost them 1.3 billion a year if the same job same pay measures are introduced. The nominee is</p>	<p>C2002/1994, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 1640 (14 May 2002)</p> <p>The nominee appeared on behalf of the CFMEU in an application for an order to stop or prevent industrial action following a workplace incident where machinery malfunctioned and caught fire underground in a coal mine. No adverse findings or comments about the nominee.</p> <p>Sayed v Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union [2015] FCA 27 (30 January 2015)</p> <p>This matter relates to whether the CFMEU took adverse action against the applicant by redeploying, suspending and dismissing the applicant. The nominee is mentioned as having meetings with the applicant to discuss complaints that were made about them. No adverse findings or comments in relation to the nominee.</p> <p>The nominee is mentioned in transcripts before the AIRC in professional capacity in roles with the CFMEU regarding workplace disputes. No adverse findings or comments e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2002/5383, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 5018 (12 December 2002) • C2002/5408, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 5057 (13 December 2002) • C2003/956, Transcript of Proceedings [2003] AIRCTrans 1558 (28 April 2003) • C2005/5877, Transcript of Proceedings [2005] AIRCTrans 2580 (30 December 2005) • Industrial Relations Commission Decision 830/1996 [1996] AIRC 1209; (3 July 1996) • C2005/2342, Transcript of Proceedings [2005] AIRCTrans 720 (22 March 2005) 	

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					<p>quoted as saying that “BHP is right to fear that same job, same pay will lift their wages bill because they have been exploiting labour-hire mine workers for years.”</p> <p>Article in which the nominee indicates that the MEU will make more applications to the FWC under same job same pay as labour hire exploitation is rife across the mining industry, following their application against Batchfire’s Callide mine at Biloela in Queensland.</p> <p>News article where the nominee expresses his support for the National Net Zero Authority to support mining workers into new jobs for the future.</p> <p>News article where the nominee in professional capacity calls for redeployment schemes which provide a pathway for redundant workers to transfer to power stations with longer operating timeframes.</p> <p>News article on the protest of CFMEU members in 2017 over the unfair enterprise agreement between workers and Glencore.</p> <p>Article on the AWU website calling for superfunds to put pressure on Rio Tinto to address</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C2004/3156, Transcript of Proceedings [2004] AIRCTrans 2764 (19 July 2004) • C2003/6881, Transcript of Proceedings [2004] AIRCTrans 248 (9 January 2004) • C2003/3762, Transcript of Proceedings [2003] AIRCTrans 2837 (9 July 2003) • C2002/3405, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 2924 (31 July 2002) • C2001/348, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 2405 (28 June 2002) • C2001/348, Transcript of Proceedings [2002] AIRCTrans 333 (7 February 2002) • C2412/300, Transcript of Proceedings [2001] AIRCTrans 216 (14 March 2001) • C2004/5407, Transcript of Proceedings [2005] AIRCTrans 740 (24 March 2005) • C2004/5407, Transcript of Proceedings [2005] AIRCTrans 1899 (14 September 2005) • BP2001/208, Transcript of Proceedings [2001] AIRCTrans 52 (22 February 2001) <p>The nominee is mentioned in professional capacity as a Union Official in the following Industrial Relations Commission decisions, no adverse findings or comments regarding the nominee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Relations Commission Decision 246/1996 [1996] AIRC 1171; (1 July 1996) • 246/96 Print N2997 [1996] AIRC 1169; (1 July 1996) • 830/96 Print N3071 [1996] AIRC 1195; (3 July 1996) • Industrial Relations Commission Decision 830/1996 [1996] AIRC 1209; (3 July 1996) 	

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					<p>its workplace culture where and the nominee states that the Mining and Union have raised concerns over years for Rio Tinto's failure to respond to bullying and harassment in the workplace.</p> <p>Article where the nominee is noted as being critical of the Australian mining industry putting contractors under intense pressure to slash workers' wages in order to maintain or win new work stating that major coal companies are demanding wage levels from their contractors that in most cases are 30 per cent or more below the levels paid two years ago.</p> <p>Article in which the nominee is noted in professional capacity as supporting the Hydrogen Energy Support Chain project in Victoria which provides Japan with liquefied hydrogen from brown coal. The nominee is supportive of the project as it is able to generate jobs while starting a new industry.</p> <p>Has written opinion pieces for the ABC. Including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Hours Case - July 2002 - PR072002 [2002] AIRC 857; (23 July 2002) • Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union - re Eligibility for membership - PR904973 [2001] AIRC 570; (13 June 2001) <p>The nominee is mentioned in Fair Work Commission transcripts as giving evidence in professional capacity in Fair Work Commission proceedings as General President of the CFMEU in relation to workplace matters such as termination of enterprise agreements. No adverse findings or comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG2018/2488, Transcript of Proceedings [2018] FWCTrans 396 (18 October 2018) • C2018/4849, Transcript of Proceedings [2018] FWCTrans 386 (3 October 2018) • AG2018/2488, Transcript of Proceedings [2018] FWCTrans 396 (18 October 2018) • AG2017/5121, Transcript of Proceedings [2018] FWCTrans 89 (22 March 2018) • B2009/10003, Transcript of Proceedings [2009] FWATrans 435 (24 July 2009) <p>Mining and Energy Union (301V) [2023] FWC 3154 (1 December 2023)</p> <p>Following the demerger of the Mining and Energy Union from the CFMEU the FWC varied union officials right of entry permits to reflect that the officials were now part of the mining and energy union. The nominee is listed as having his right of entry permit varied to reflect the change in union membership.</p> <p>The nominee has filed declarations in his professional capacity as General President of the</p>	

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> an article in support of Labour's emissions trading scheme in 2014 an article in 2013 criticising mining companies using project deferrals to <i>'whip up fears which will promote their best interests'</i> even though deferring projects to wait for higher commodity prices is part of standard practice for mining companies. An article in 2012 criticising a <i>'small club of very wealthy individuals'</i> dominating and distorting the debate about the impact a resources tax would have on jobs and the economy. An article in 2012 of Gina Rinehart's purchase of Fairfax shares and how this could be used to further her business interests. An article in 2009 calling on the Australian government to maximise its jobs dividend in their climate change policies by integrating pro-employment policies with each policy that contributes to a low emission economy. 	<p>CFMEU in relation to applications for CFMEU officials to receive a right of entry permit. No adverse findings or comments in relation to the nominee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union - Re Mark Paul Richards [2022] FWC 2552 (21 September 2022) Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union - Re Craig Michael Carberry [2022] FWC 2550 (21 September 2022) Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union - Re Andrew James Davey [2022] FWC 2553 (21 September 2022) Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union-Mining and Energy Division [2023] FWC 1698 (14 July 2023) <p>Joseph Shorey v FES Coal Pty Ltd; Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union [2018] FWCFB 6100 (1 October 2018) and C2018/4849, Transcript of Proceedings [2018] FWCTrans 386 (3 October 2018)</p> <p>The nominee is mentioned as having made a media release in his professional capacity as the CFMMEU National president in relation to a new greenfields agreement with One Key's parent company Fircroft. No further mentions and no adverse findings or comments in relation to the nominee.</p> <p>Sarre, Rick; Richards, Jenny --- "Responding to Culpable Corporate Behaviour - Current Developments in the Industrial Manslaughter Debate" [2005] FlinJLawRfm 4; (2005) 8(1) The Flinders Journal of Law Reform 93</p>	

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
					<p>Article discussing that forward planning and consideration will be needed to ensure there is a just transition for workers in the mining industry as Australia moves to clean energy.</p> <p>Gave a presentation at the Sydney Institute in professional capacity on climate energy and mining.</p> <p>Biography on MEU's website listing him as General President.</p>	<p>The nominee is mentioned in professional capacity calling for legislators to introduce an industrial manslaughter offence which carries penalties of imprisonment for directors of errant companies. No adverse comments regarding the nominee.</p> <p>Dawson, Andrew --- "Dark side of the boom" [2012] AboutHouseMag 69; (2012) 45 About the House Magazine 46</p> <p>The nominee is quoted in professional capacity as the President of the mining division of the CFMEU. In the article the nominee discusses the impact that FIFO workers are having on regional mining towns where the "social fabric" has changed. <i>"If you have a family in that town the social fabric has been changed, and not for the better. Some of these mining towns will go from being residential communities to basically single person towns or camps, and that is very regrettable. It does come down to affordable housing stock in many cases but also to a more judicious use of FIFO. I think it comes down to a business decision about costs, and the community's views ought to be taken into account."</i> The nominee also raises concerns around insufficient number of beds for the amount of FIFO workers so workers are "hot-bedding" where the bed is being shared with another worker according to when their shift starts or ends. The nominee notes an incident where a worker was unable to rest between shifts because someone else was already using the bed when he returned from his shift.</p> <p>The nominee was a witness in the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Clean Energy Future</p>	

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
						<p>Legislation - Advisory report on the Clean Energy Bills and the Steel Transformation Bill 2011 in professional capacity as National President of the CFMEU on the Clean Energy and Steel Transformation bills. No adverse findings or comments.</p> <p>House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia (43rd Parliament) --- "Cancer of the bush or salvation for our cities?" [2013] AUHRStaCRAU 1 (13 February 2013)</p> <p>Nominee gave evidence in professional capacity as National President and General President of the Mining Division of the CFMMEU to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia on Fly-in, fly-out and drive-in, drive-out workforce practices in Regional Australia. No adverse findings or comments in relation to the nominee.</p> <p>Qasim v Kekatos Lawyers [2021] NSWSC 1366 (26 October 2021) and Qasim v Owners Strata Plan 61034 (No. 2) [2022] NSWSC 1610 (28 November 2022)</p> <p>A Tony Maher is listed as the seventh defendant as a representative for a body corporate, where the plaintiff had a default judgement against her as she had not paid her strata levies. The court dismissed the proceedings brought against the Tony Maher and no adverse findings or comments against the Tony Maher. The nominee was asked if he was the Tony Maher and he did not indicate that he was the Tony Maher mentioned in the above matters.</p> <p>R v Aldred [2013] NSWDC 13 (30 January 2013)</p>	

Name	Private interests declaration	ASIC personal name extract	AFSA Bankruptcy	ASIC banned and disqualified	Google The first 5 Pages of Google search results and Google News results	AustLII	Lobbyist registers
						<p>An Anthony Maher gave evidence as a witness in relation to a car accident which caused the death of another person. The Anthony Maher was not a defendant in the matter and there were no adverse findings or comments.</p> <p>Short v Ambulance Victoria [2015] FCAFC 55 (24 April 2015) In this appeal in relation to a Federal Court decision regarding an unfair dismissal. An Anthony Maher is mentioned as not being called upon to give evidence which impacted the Federal Court's original decision. No other comments or adverse findings in relation to the Anthony Maher.</p>	

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Australian Government

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

MS24-000947

Standard Brief

To Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Action Required For Decision

Appointments - Safe Work Australia - Chair

Timing Please action by **20 December 2024**. The reason is to avoid any vacancies in the position.

Recommendation/s:

1. That you **sign** the letters to the state and territory Work Health and Safety Ministers (the WHS Ministers) concerning the proposed appointment of Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia at **Attachment A**.
Signed / Not signed / Please discuss
2. That you **sign** the letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, seeking his approval or, at his discretion, Cabinet's approval for the proposed appointment (subject to any serious concerns about the proposed appointment being raised by the WHS Ministers) at **Attachment B**.
Signed / Not signed / Please discuss
3. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Minister Watt

Signed / Not signed / Please discuss

Date: 6 / 12 / 2024

Comments:

Clearing Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Deputy Secretary, WR Workplace Relations Group	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Assistant Secretary, FACS Branch, WR Workplace Relations Legal	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive summary:

1. This brief provides advice on your proposed appointment of Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia.
2. The letters at **Attachment A** advise the WHS Ministers of your proposal to appoint Mr Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia.
The letter at **Attachment B** seeks the approval of the Prime Minister or, at his discretion,

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MS24-000947

Cabinet's approval for the appointment of Mr Maher and advises that you are consulting with the WHS Ministers about the proposed appointment in accordance with legislative requirements.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key Points:

3. On 25 October 2024, your office advised that you wish to appoint Mr Maher as the new Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of Ms Farrell's term on 31 January 2025.
4. Mr Maher is the General President of the Mining and Energy Union. Mr Maher has held this position since 1998. From 2001 to 2005, Mr Maher was the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, which is a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. Mr Maher was also a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council from 2002 to 2005, which is a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety.
5. There are no legislative requirements that you must be satisfied of before appointing Mr Maher, except that you must consult with the WHS Ministers on your proposed appointment before you can make the appointment.
6. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations has conducted due diligence checks on Mr Maher (**Attachment D**). The results do not suggest that Mr Maher is unsuitable for appointment.

Public Sensitivities:

7. Stakeholders may question Mr Maher's impartiality in the Chair position given his current role as General President of the Mining and Energy Union and long history of union involvement. His appointment may be seen to affect the current balance of 2 members representing the interests of workers and 2 members representing the interests of employers on Safe Work Australia.
s 34(1)(c)
- 8.

Consultation: Yes

9. Subsection 11(2) provides that you must consult with the WHS Ministers about your proposed appointee before you can make the appointment.
10. The letters at **Attachment A** to the WHS Ministers ask that they write to you by 9 January 2025 if they have any serious concerns regarding Mr Maher's appointment.
11. The draft letter to the Prime Minister at **Attachment B** advises that you are consulting with the WHS Ministers and that you will advise him by mid-January 2025 if the WHS Ministers raise any concerns that suggest Mr Maher should not be appointed.

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Legal advice / Legislative impacts:

12. Nil.

Financial impacts:

13. Safe Work Australia is jointly funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments through the Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety. The Commonwealth funds 50% of the budget with states and territories contributing the remaining 50% proportional to the population of each.

Gender diversity targets:

14. The Australian Government is committed to a gender diversity target of women holding 50% of Australian Government Board positions overall, with at least 40% representation of women and 40% representation of men on individual boards.
15. The gender balance of reportable positions for Safe Work Australia is 62% women (8 of 13) and 38% men (5 of 13) and does not meet the gender diversity target. The gender balance of all positions (reportable and non-reportable) is 67% women (10 of 15) and 33% men (5 of 15).
16. If the proposed appointment is made it will result in a reportable gender balance for Safe Work Australia of 54% women (7 of 13) and 46% men (6 of 13) and will meet the gender diversity target. The gender balance of all positions (reportable and non-reportable) will be 60% women (9 of 15) and 40% men (6 of 15).

Remuneration:

17. The Chair of Safe Work Australia is remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office) Determination 2024* and is entitled to \$67,460 per annum. The Chair is also entitled to Tier 2 travel expenses in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2024*.

Background:

18. The *Cabinet Handbook (15th Edition)* provides that short-term acting appointments of up to 3 months may be made without seeking the approval of the Prime Minister or, at his discretion, Cabinet. However, appointments cannot be further extended without the approval of the Prime Minister.
19. If the Prime Minister or Cabinet is unable to consider Mr Maher's appointment prior to Ms Farrell's term expiring, and subject to the WHS Ministers raising any serious concerns in relation to the proposed appointment within the period specified, the department will brief you with an instrument to appoint Mr Maher for a term of 3 months.
20. Safe Work Australia is the national policy setting body for matters relating to work health and safety and workers compensation. It consists of 14 voting members (the Chair, one member representing the Commonwealth, 8 members each representing a different state or territory, 2 members representing the interests of workers in Australia and 2 members representing the interests of employers in Australia). The Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia is a non-voting member.
21. Voting members hold office on a part-time basis for up to 3 years and may be reappointed. There is no statutory limit on the number of terms a member can serve.

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Communications and media strategy:

22. On 8 January 2024, the Prime Minister's office advised of a new process relating to public announcements of statutory appointments. Before any public announcement, your office must provide a draft copy of any media release to the Prime Minister's Press Office, along with a completed 'Appointments announcement checklist'.
23. A media release and talking points in relation to the inaugural appointments will be provided to your office by the department's Media team, should your office indicate that these are needed. The department will also provide a completed 'Appointments Announcement Checklist' at that time.

Stakeholder Implications:

24. Safe Work Australia's Secretariat has advised that the first meeting of 2025 will also be a strategic planning meeting and is currently scheduled for 6 March 2025. It is important that the Chair of Safe Work Australia is appointed prior to the first meeting of 2025 so that they are able to prepare for and participate in the meeting.

Attachments:

A: Letters to state and territory work health and safety ministers

B: Letter to the Prime Minister

s 22(1)(a)(ii)



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Pettersson@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

I identified Mr Maher as my preferred candidate for appointment to this position on the basis of his work health and safety and leadership experience, which I am satisfied will equip him with the qualities needed to ensure that Safe Work Australia operates effectively, including the ability to preside at Safe Work Australia meetings and direct discussions efficiently.

Since 1998, Mr Maher has been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety and routinely engages with the Commonwealth and state governments on mine safety legislation, standards and codes of practice. From 2001 to 2005, Mr Maher was the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. From 2002 to 2005, Mr Maher was also a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety.

If you have any concerns regarding this proposed appointment, please write to me by 9 January 2025. As this proposed appointment is subject to formal Australian Government approval processes, I ask that you keep the proposed appointment in strict confidence at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M/Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Sophie Cotsis MP
Minister for Work Health and Safety
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sophie.Cotsis@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister *Sophie*

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

I identified Mr Maher as my preferred candidate for appointment to this position on the basis of his work health and safety and leadership experience, which I am satisfied will equip him with the qualities needed to ensure that Safe Work Australia operates effectively, including the ability to preside at Safe Work Australia meetings and direct discussions efficiently.

Since 1998 Mr Maher has been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety and routinely engages with the Commonwealth and state governments on mine safety legislation, standards and codes of practice. From 2001 to 2005, Mr Maher was the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. From 2002 to 2005, Mr Maher was also a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety.

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Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Murray Watt, consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

MURRAY WATT

6/12 /2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Minister for Industrial Relations
PO Box 15009
CITY EAST QLD 4002

deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier

Jarrod

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

I identified Mr Maher as my preferred candidate for appointment to this position on the basis of his work health and safety and leadership experience, which I am satisfied will equip him with the qualities needed to ensure that Safe Work Australia operates effectively, including the ability to preside at Safe Work Australia meetings and direct discussions efficiently.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA
Attorney-General
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Minister.Boothby@nt.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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If you have any concerns regarding this proposed appointment, please write to me by 9 January 2025. As this proposed appointment is subject to formal Australian Government approval processes, I ask that you keep the proposed appointment in strict confidence at this time.

Yours sincerely

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MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Simone McGurk MLA
Minister for Industrial Relations
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simone".

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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6 / 12 / 2024

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001

AttorneyGeneral@sa.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

Kyam

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Danny Pearson MP
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC
PO Box 605
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

Danny.Pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

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MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs
Level 5, Salamanca Building
4 Salamanca Place
HOBART TASMANIA 7000

Felix.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister

Felix

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

PROTECTED//CABINET

s 34(1)(c)

PROTECTED//CABINET

s 34(1)(c)

PROTECTED//CABINET



Australian Government

PROTECTED

Appointment Announcement Checklist

Responsible Department: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Official Contact name: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Phone number: Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii) PH: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Email: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date of submission to MO: 30 January 2025

Description of Appointment

Title: Chair of Safe Work Australia

Type of appointment:

Position / board: Chair, Safe Work Australia

Full-time / part-time: Part-time

Appointment / reappointment / acting appointment: Appointment

Commencement date (dd/mm/yyyy): 1 February 2025

End date (dd/mm/yyyy): 31 January 2028

Type of Approval Required

Minister:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date:	28 January 2025*
Prime Minister or Cabinet:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date:	23 January 2025
Executive Council:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date:	
Governor-General:	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date:	

Appointment Announcement Checklist

1

Authority

Legislative reference/authority for the appointment: Subsection 11(1) of the Safe Work Austr.

Who appoints:

Minister / Governor-General: Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Announcement

Is an early announcement ahead of Executive Council required:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Has approval for early announcement* been granted by the Governor-General:

Yes ☐ No ☒

Draft Release attached:

Yes ☒ No ☐

*Agreement for an early announcement may be arranged via the Exco Secretariat (exco@pmc.gov.au).

The relevant Department must seek agreement at least 48 hours prior to any announcement being made.

Comments

*Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, signed the instrument appointing Mr Anthony Maher as the new Chair of Safe Work Australia on 28 January 2025. s 34(3)

s 34(1)(a)

s 34(1)(a)

s 34(1)(a)

s 34(1)(a)

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To ○ Petterson@act.gov.au



OFFICIAL



MS24-000947 signed letter - Petterson.pdf 665 KB ▾



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Tue 10/12/2024 6:23 PM

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

.....
Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)
.....

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA
Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Pettersson@act.gov.au

Dear Minister

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To Sophie.Cotsis@parliament.nsw.gov.au



OFFICIAL



MS24-000947 signed letter - Cotsis.pdf 633 KB



Reply



Reply All



Forward



Tue 10/12/2024 6:24 PM

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

p: s 22(1)(a)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Sophie Cotsis MP
Minister for Work Health and Safety
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sophie.Cotsis@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Minister *Sophie*

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

6/12 /2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone 02 6277 7320

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

OFFICIAL

MS24-000947 signed letter -Belijie.pdf 631 KB

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

Tue 10/12/2024 6:24 PM

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

....

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
 Minister for Industrial Relations
 PO Box 15009
 CITY EAST QLD 4002

deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier *Jarrod*

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To: Minister.Boothby@nt.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Tue 10/12/2024 6:25 PM

MS24-000947 signed letter - Boothby.pdf 622 KB

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

 Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations
 Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Marie-Clare Boothby MLA
Attorney-General
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Minister.Boothby@nt.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

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MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To minister.mcgurk@dpc.wa.gov.au

OFFICIAL

MS24-000947 signed letter - McGurk.pdf 638 KB

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 10/12/2024 6:26 PM

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

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SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Simone McGurk MLA
 Minister for Industrial Relations
 8th Floor, Dumas House
 2 Havelock Street
 WEST PERTH WA 6005

Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Minister

Simone

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MURRAY WATT

6 / 12 / 2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To attorney.general@sa.gov.au

OFFICIAL

MS24-000947 signed letter - Maher.pdf 638 KB

Reply Reply All Forward

Tue 10/12/2024 6:26 PM

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s 22(1)(a)

/iii\

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

/iii\

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**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Kyam Maher MLC
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001

AttorneyGeneral@sa.gov.au

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MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone 02 6277 7320

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To ○ Danny.Pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

OFFICIAL

MS24-000947 signed letter - Pearson.pdf 677 KB ▾

[↩ Reply](#) [↩ Reply All](#) [→ Forward](#) [⋮](#)

Tue 10/12/2024 6:27 PM

Good evening,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

/s/ Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS24-000947

The Hon Danny Pearson MP
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC
PO Box 605
MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

Danny.Pearson@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

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6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt

To: Felix.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au

OFFICIAL

MS24-000947 signed letter - Felix.pdf 644 KB

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

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s 22(1)(a)

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P: s 22(1)(a)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS24-000947

The Hon Felix Ellis MP
 Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs
 Level 5, Salamanca Building
 4 Salamanca Place
 HOBART TASMANIA 7000

Felix.Ellis@dpac.tas.gov.au

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Felix

I am writing to consult you about my proposal to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of the term of appointment of the current Chair, Ms Joanne Farrell, on 31 January 2025. I have also written to other state and territory ministers with responsibility for work health and safety to consult on this proposed appointment as required under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*.

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Since 1998 Mr Maher has been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety and routinely engages with the Commonwealth and state governments on mine safety legislation, standards and codes of practice. From 2001 to 2005, Mr Maher was the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. From 2002 to 2005, Mr Maher was also a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety.

If you have any concerns regarding this proposed appointment, please write to me by 9 January 2025. As this proposed appointment is subject to formal Australian Government approval processes, I ask that you keep the proposed appointment in strict confidence at this time.

Yours sincerely

MURRAY WATT

6/12/2024

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Correspondence from Minister Watt - SWA Chair appointment [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]



DLO Watt
To: s 22(1)(a)
Cc: DLO Watt

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [More](#)

Tue 10/12/2024 6:16 PM

PROTECTED\CABINET

MS24-000947 signed letter - PM.pdf 2 MB

PROTECTED//CABINET

Hi DLOs,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

The letter proposes to appoint Mr Anthony Maher as Chair of Safe Work Australia for a 3-year term.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations
Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
P: s 22(1)(a)

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past and present.

PROTECTED//CABINET

s 34(1)(c)

s 34(1)(c)

PROTECTED//CABINET



Australian Government

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

MS25-000025

Standard Brief

To Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Action Required For Decision

Appointments - Safe Work Australia - Chair

Timing Please action by 31 January 2025 to avoid any vacancy in this position.

Recommendation/s:

1. That you **sign** the appointment instrument at **Attachment A** appointing Mr Anthony Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia.

Signed / Not signed / Please discuss

2. That you **sign** the letter at **Attachment B** advising Mr Maher his appointment.

Signed / Not signed / Please discuss

Minister Watt

Date: 28/1 /2025

Comments:

Clearing Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Chief Counsel WR Workplace Relations Legal	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) Mob: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Assistant Secretary, FACS Branch WR Workplace Relations Legal	Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Executive summary:

- s 34(3) refers), this brief provides you with an instrument to appoint Mr Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia for a term of 3 years (**Attachment A**).
- There is also a letter for you to sign at **Attachment B** advising Mr Maher of his appointment.

Key Points:

- On 25 October 2024, your office advised that you wished to appoint Mr Maher as the new Chair of Safe Work Australia following the expiry of Ms Joanne Farrell's term on 31 January 2025.
- On 10 December 2024, you wrote to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, seeking for him to approve or raise for consideration by Cabinet your proposal to appoint Mr Maher for a term of 3 years (**MS24-000947** refers).

MS25-000025

14. If the proposed appointment is made it will result in a reportable gender balance for Safe Work Australia of 45% women (5 of 11) and 55% men (6 of 11) and will meet the gender diversity target. The gender balance of all positions (reportable and non-reportable) will be 54% women (7 of 13) and 46% men (6 of 13).

Remuneration:

15. The Chair of Safe Work Australia is remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office) Determination 2024* and is entitled to \$67,460 per annum. The Chair is also entitled to Tier 2 travel expenses in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2024*.

Background:

16. Safe Work Australia is the national policy-setting body for matters relating to work health and safety and workers compensation. It consists of 14 voting members (the Chair, one member representing the Commonwealth, 8 members each representing a different state or territory, 2 members representing the interests of workers in Australia, and 2 members representing the interests of employers in Australia). The Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia is a non-voting member.
17. Voting members hold office on a part-time basis for up to 3 years and may be reappointed. There is no statutory limit on the number of terms a member can serve.

Communications and media strategy:

18. The Prime Minister's office has advised of a new process relating to public announcements of statutory appointments. Before any public announcement, your office must provide a draft copy of any media release to the Prime Minister's Press Office, along with a completed 'Appointments Announcement Checklist'.
19. A media release and talking points in relation to the appointment will be provided to your office by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations' Media team, should your office indicate that these are needed. The department will also provide a completed 'Appointments Announcement Checklist' at that time.

Stakeholder Implications:

20. Safe Work Australia's Secretariat has advised that the first meeting of 2025 will be a strategic planning meeting and is currently scheduled for 6 March 2025. It is important that the Chair of Safe Work Australia is appointed prior to the first meeting of 2025 so that they are able to prepare for and participate in the meeting.

Attachments:

- A: 3-year appointment instrument – Mr Maher
- B: Letter to Mr Maher



Safe Work Australia (Chair) Appointment 2025 (1)

I, Murray Watt, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, acting under subsection 11(1) of the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*, appoint Anthony Maher as the Chair of Safe Work Australia for a term of 3 years commencing on 1 February 2025 or the date of this instrument, whichever is later.

Dated 28 January 2025

Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

MS25-000025

s 47F(1)

s 47F(1)

Dear Mr Maher

Tony

I am pleased to advise that I have appointed you as the Chair of Safe Work Australia. Your appointment is part-time for a 3-year term, commencing on the date specified in the enclosed instrument.

Congratulations on your appointment to this important role. I look forward to working with you as Safe Work Australia advances its important functions in improving work health and safety outcomes and workers' compensation arrangements by providing an inclusive tripartite forum for representatives of governments, workers and employers.

If you require any further information or assistance, the contact officer at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations is s 22(1)(a)(ii) Assistant Secretary, Workplace Relations Legal Division, who can be contacted via email at s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

28/1 /2025

Enc

Correspondence from Minister Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]



Minister Watt
To s 47F(1)

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

Tue 28/01/2025 1:29 PM

OFFICIAL

MS25-000025 signed letter - Maher.pdf 556 KB [v](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find **attached** correspondence from the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Senator the Hon Murray Watt.

Kind regards,

s 22(1)(a)

Departmental Liaison Officer - Workplace Relations
Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt

P s 22(1)(a)

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SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

MS25-000025

s 47F(1)

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MURRAY WATT

28/1 /2025

Enc



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Dated

28 January 2025

Murray Watt
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

Safe Work Australia (Chair) Appointment 2025 (1)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 11:38 AM
 To: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: Re: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thank: S yes please.

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 Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 11:21 AM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DLO Watt

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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The line area at DEWR has just informed me Minister Watt made the appointment yesterday with the new Chair commencing this Saturday 1 February.

Just wanting to confirm you are still keen to announce this appointment? And is this something you would like to announce on Saturday?

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)
 (ii)

Assistant Director

Media Team | Communication and Media
 People and Communication
 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive



250131 - WATT MR
- Safe Work Australi



SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT

**MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND**

Friday, 31 January 2025

New Chair for Safe Work Australia

Coal mining industry leader Mr Tony Maher has been appointed as the new Chair of Safe Work Australia.

Mr Maher brings a wealth of experience to the role. He previously served for four years as the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd - a specialised health and safety scheme that provides services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry. Mr Maher was a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a NSW Government tripartite advisory body on mine safety between 2002 and 2005. He has also been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union since 1998, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety.

He takes over from Ms Joanne Farrell who departs the role having served as Chair since 2022.

Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Murray Watt welcomed the appointment of Mr Maher and thanked Ms Farrell for her service.

"Mr Maher brings immense experience to the role and I'm sure he will build on the significant contribution Ms Farrell made to the agency," Minister Watt said.

"Australian workers have a right to safe and healthy workplaces, and I know Mr Maher will work enthusiastically with employers and workers in his new role.

"Under Ms Farrell's leadership over the past three years, there is now increased awareness of risks to the work health and safety of their workers, including in relation to silicosis.

"The finalisation of the new national strategy to reduce workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses in Australia is a testament to her work. I would like to thank Ms Farrell for her contribution."

Mr Maher begins in the role from tomorrow on a three-year term.

CHAIR BIOGRAPHY:

From 2001 to 2005, Tony Maher served as the Director of Coal Services Pty Ltd, a specialised health and safety scheme that provides an integrated suite of services to help identify, assess, monitor and control risks in the coal industry.

He was a member of the Mine Safety Advisory Council, a tripartite advisory body to the NSW Government on mine safety from 2002 to 2005.

Since 1998, Mr Maher has also been the General President of the Mining and Energy Union, which strongly advocates for mine worker safety and routinely engages with the Commonwealth and state governments on mine safety legislation, standards and codes of practice.

Mr Maher holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales.

MEDIA CONTACT: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

s 22(1) : 22(1)(a)

(a)(ii) ii) s 22(1)(a)(ii)

To: DEWR - Media
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) DLO Watt

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Thu 30/01/2025 3:00 PM

OFFICIAL Sensitive\OFFICIAL Sensitive

You replied to this message on 30/01/2025 3:25 PM.

250131 - WATT MR - Safe Work Australia Chair appointment.docx .docx File

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 3:00 PM

To: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks s the checklist was very helpful, pls pass on our appreciation.

Confirming 22(1) this one will go out at 11am AEDT tomorrow. The MO will let the new Chair know this afternoon.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 11:51 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DEWR - Media

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s

22(1)

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Also attached is the appointment checklist the line area has asked me to send through.

Cheers,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

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People and Communication

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 3:14 PM
 To: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Fab, thank you!

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 1:16 PM
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 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DEWR - Media

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi S

Confirming no issues with a Friday announcement – we'll get a draft media release to you soon.

Cheers,
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

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 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 12:37 PM
 To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DEWR - Media

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks S - let me come back to you on this.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

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 Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
 Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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 Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 11:38 AM
 To: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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 Subject: Re: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

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SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT

**MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND**

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RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]



DEWR - Media
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

☐ DLO Watt; ☐ DEWR - Media

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#) [...](#)

Thu 30/01/2025 11:51 AM

s
22(1)

OFFICIAL Sensitive\OFFICIAL Sensitive

Watt 29-1-24-Media release- Safe Work Australia Chair .docx .docx File

Chair of Safe Work Australia - Appointment Announcements Checklist.pdf .pdf File

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: DEWR - Media s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 11:51 AM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Subject: RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

DLO Watt s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DEWR - Media

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

Media Team | Communication and Media

People and Communication

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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RE: Safe Work Australia Chair appointment [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]



DEWR - Media
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
s 22(1)(a)(ii)

DLO Watt; DEWR - Media

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Thu 30/01/2025 3:26 PM

OFFICIAL Sensitive\OFFICIAL Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks ^S
22 - will do.

And appreciate the visibility on timing .

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Assistant Director

Media Team | Communication and Media

People and Communication

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Mobile: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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Safe Work Australia Chair appointment



DEWR - Media

To s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Cc DEWR - Media; s 22(1)(a)(ii)

JLO Watt

Reply
 Reply All
 Forward

Wed 29/01/2025 11:21 AM

OFFICIAL Sensitive\OFFICIAL Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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Media Team | Communication and Media

People and Communication

Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Mobile s 22(1)(a)(ii)

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