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7 March 2023

Ms Kym Bancroft
Deputy Director-General
Office of Industrial Relations

By Email - [redacted]

Dear Deputy Director-General

RE: Safety Incident - CCR Albert Street Lot 1

It is necessary for me to respond to your appalling response to the concerns raised by the Union's OHS Co-ordinator about the serious injury of a worker working on Cross River Rail.

You have mistaken the OHS Co-ordinator's email as a notification of an incident, where in fact your inspectors were aware of the potential for an incident to occur when it was raised with them on site on Wednesday, 1 March 2023. Despite being aware, the inspectors took no action and it resulted in a worker being seriously injured.

You then have the audacity to accuse the Union of putting its members and all workers at risk, rather than deal with the issues raised in the email. As the Deputy Director-General, this statement is unacceptable.

There is no organisation doing more to ensure the health and safety of construction workers than our Union. Our members, officials and officers are the people on the frontline ensuring that all construction workers make it home safely.

There has not been a fatality on a site in Queensland with a Union presence since 2008. The same cannot be said about the presence of your inspectors and the Office of Industrial Relations. This is likely because you are so caught up with unnecessary bureaucracy.

Take this situation as an example. Here, you won't answer the urgent call of Union representatives, who want to inform you that the contractor is obstructing their entry because of the 'process' that you have implemented, without consultation with industry stakeholders.

I must remind you again that a worker has suffered a serious injury and that these representatives are the ones appointed by construction workers to raise health and safety concerns. You must have forgotten that when you made the deliberate choice to not answer their calls as it was not consistent with the 'process'.

Given that you, the Deputy Director-General, made these comments, it is necessary for you to write to the Union:

- withdrawing your statement in your email of 6 March 2023;
- confirming that inspectors attended CCR Albert Street Lot 1 on 1 March 2023 in relation to concerns about falling objects and that no action was taken by inspectors;

- confirming that the incident that occurred at CCR Albert Street Lot 1 on 3 March 2023 involved a falling object; and
- confirming that the incident that occurred at CCR Albert Street Lot 1 on 3 March 2023 did not result from the Union representatives failing to following the process of notifying incidents.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Michael Ravbar
State Secretary

CC Hon Grace Grace, Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations & Minister for Racing
Mr Michael De'Ath, DG, Dept of Education

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