

**STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICES REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL
REPORT AND DETERMINATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(2) OF THE ACT
REPORT:**

1. On 20 July 2012 the Premier requested the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal) to make a determination in respect of the remuneration payable to the office of the WorkCover Independent Review Officer.
2. The Premier advised that the *Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Act 1975* (the SOOR Act) will be amended to include this office in the list in Schedule 1. This is a new position and the Tribunal has not previously made a determination on the remuneration payable for this office.
3. The WorkCover Independent Review Officer is an independent statutory position created by the WCLA Act. The WCLA Act inserts into the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* new provisions establishing the WorkCover Independent Review Officer. The WCLA Act also amends provisions in the *Workers Compensation Act 1987* relating to the review of work capacity decisions by insurers.
4. The establishment of the WorkCover Independent Review Officer is part of a broad range of reforms to the New South Wales Workers Compensation Scheme. As outlined in the WCLA Act the WorkCover Independent Review Officer will undertake the following functions and responsibilities:
 - Investigate complaints made by workers about insurers and report to the worker and insurer on the findings of the investigation, including reasons and binding recommendations for specific actions to be taken by either party.
 - Review work capacity decisions of insurers under Division 2 (weekly compensation by way of income support) of Part 3 of the *Workers Compensation Act 1987*.

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- Inquire into and report to the Minister on matters arising in connection with the operation of the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998 and Workers Compensation Act 1987*.
 - Encourage the establishment by insurers and employers of complaint resolution processes for complaints arising under the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998 and Workers Compensation Act 1987*.
 - Report annually to the Minister and Parliament on the operation of the scheme, including statistical analysis of complaints, information about the operation of the process for the review of work capacity decisions of insurers, and recommendations for legislative or other improvements to that process.
 - Other functions as may be conferred by or under the Workers Compensation Acts or any other Act.
5. The WIRO will lead and manage the WorkCover Independent Review Office and be responsible for the efficient management of the organisations operational functions. The WorkCover Independent Review Officer will play a key role in establishing the office and will be responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant public sector policies, standards and relevant statutory requirements. With a dual role of dealing with individual complaints and overseeing the scheme as a whole, the WorkCover Independent Review Officer will be an important accountability mechanism for the workers compensation scheme.
6. In determining the remuneration for this position the Tribunal has had regard to an independent job evaluation of the position, and also to relevant comparators. The Tribunal is of the view that the WorkCover Independent Review Officer should receive an annual salary of \$300,000 and so determines.

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DETERMINATION:

Pursuant to section 14(2) of the *Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Act 1975* the Tribunal determines that the office of WorkCover Independent Review Officer shall receive a salary of \$300,000 per annum with effect from the date of this determination.

**Statutory and Other Offices
Remuneration Tribunal**

(signed)

Helen Wright
10 August 2012