

CPB Contractors Pty Limited - Opening Statement
2 May 2025
NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2024 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme

Good morning, Honourable Members, I am Graeme Silvester, General Manager of Safety, Health, Environment, Quality and Sustainability at CPB Contractors. I am joined by Glyn Edwards, General Manager for Tunnelling at CPB Contractors.

We are here to respond to any questions you have related to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2024 Review of the Dust Diseases Scheme and we thank you for the invitation to attend and the opportunity to address the committee with a short opening statement.

CPB Contractors has been proudly building our nation's transformational infrastructure for more than 90 years. The health, safety and wellbeing of our people is a priority and this includes protecting our people from the potential exposure to respirable crystalline silica or RCS as it is known.

CPB work with independent health and hygiene experts to address the potential exposure by eliminating or minimising the risk through application of known or new engineering controls, updating our training programs and personal protective equipment - including respiratory protective equipment and by implementing worker health monitoring processes supported by leading occupational physicians and respiratory physicians.

Specific to RCS, our commitment to health and safety is demonstrated through our leadership via several initiatives. We were the first contractor to:

- Adopt the use of Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) for all roadheader operators in 2022. This initiative was then expanded at scale to all underground workers in proximity excavation activities
- Implement low-dose HRCT Scans based on risk and employment history as part of our health monitoring programme.
- Employ a full-time occupational hygienist on every tunnelling project. CPB also invests in academic education for our people, providing opportunity to complete the internationally recognised certificate in *Occupational Hygiene*.
- Redesign with support from our supplier Allcott a state-of-the-art pressurised crib room facilities, setting a new industry standard.

We engage independent occupational hygiene experts to conduct personal air exposure monitoring across our projects, with these results shared with our workers and exceedances notified to the Regulator where required.

We financially support The Prince Charles Hospital, its scientists and Tradie Health Institute program, investing in its research into the early detection and treatment of diseases associated with RCS.

We recognise the critical role we have in protecting our workers, and we value the collaborative relationships we have across our joint venture and delivery partners, supply chain, clients and SafeWork. We have a genuine desire to work with all relevant stakeholders to productively use our knowledge and data and to further develop the industry initiatives.

However, this is an issue bigger than any one contractor or project. For this reason we would like to commend the NSW Government for establishing the new Tunnelling Dust Safety Taskforce and we embrace their call to maintain and reinforce a set of industry-wide minimum standards to ensure worker health and safety in all tunnelling environments.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak and I now welcome any questions.