

Inquest into the cause and circumstances surrounding the death of Billy-Joh Watts

On 2 May 2023, Coroner Donald MacKenzie delivered his findings into the *Billy-Joh Watts*.

Billy-Joh Watts was a 36 year old truck driver who was fatally crushed by a falling pipe from a forklift unloading a truck.

The Queensland Government responds to recommendations directed to government agencies at inquests by informing the community if a recommendation will be implemented or the reason why a recommendation is not supported.

The departments named in this response will provide implementation updates until the recommendation is delivered. Further information relating to the implementation of recommendations can be obtained from the responsible minister named in the response.

Recommendation 1

Office of Industrial Relations review their “Event Management” procedure to facilitate the sharing of information with other regulators where an inspector obtains information that may be relevant to the enforcement of another Act whether Queensland, interstate or Commonwealth if necessary to lessen or prevent a serious risk to public health or safety pursuant to section 271 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Response and action: the recommendation is implemented.

Responsible agency: Office of Industrial Relations

On 10 October 2023 the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing responded:

The recommendation has been implemented. The Event Management procedure of the Office of Industrial Relations (OIR) was reviewed and amended in August 2023. The amendment requires inspectors, when responding to an incident and a potential breach of other legislation not administered by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) is identified, to consult with the agency responsible for administering the other legislation and if necessary, share relevant information in accordance with section 271 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.