



13 October 2017

Registrar
Coroners Court of WA
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH, WA, 6000

Dear Registrar,

RE: Inquest into the death of Shaun McBride (date of findings 30 May 2017)

Thank you for your letter to Standards Australia dated 8 June 2017 enclosing the findings and recommendation by State Coroner Fogliani in the inquest into the death of Shaun McBride:

1. Findings and Recommendation

We note the findings of State Coroner Fogliani delivered on 30 May 2017 and in particular the following recommendation:

I recommend that the committees responsible for the relevant Australian Standards consider amendments to ensure that people working over or adjacent to water or liquid who may be at risk of falling into the water and drowning wear an approved PFD – including AS/NZS 1891.4:2009 (committee SF-015 and AS/NZS 4576:1995 (committee BD-36).

2. Standards Australia's Standards Development Process

By way of background, Standards Australia does not initiate standards development projects. Rather, a project to prepare a new Standard, revise an existing one or propose participation internationally at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) or the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), can only commence with a project proposal to Standards Australia and the support of relevant external stakeholders, such as government, industry or trade association, professional body, consumer organisation or an individual, through Standards Australia's Project Proposal process.

Once a project is approved, Standards Australia's role is to facilitate a stakeholder led, consensus based process. Attached is a copy of *Standards Australia's Guide - Project Prioritisation Process and Criteria*. Further information on Standards Australia's standards development processes is available on its website (see):

http://www.standards.org.au/StandardsDevelopment/Developing_Standards/Pages/default.aspx.

3. Project Proposal to Revise AS 4576 *Guidelines for Scaffolding*

Standards Australia received a project proposal for the revision of AS 4576 *Guidelines for Scaffolding* before the Coroner handed down her findings. The project was approved and was expected to commence by Technical Committee BD-036 before the end of the 2017. However, the commencement of that project has been delayed due to the Committee's limited capacity to undertake additional projects.

Given that the Coroner's findings post-dated the project proposal, the proposal did not include an amendment to ensure that people working over or adjacent to water or liquid, who may be at risk of falling into the water and drowning, wear an approved PFD. It also does not seek to revise AS/NZS 1891.4:2009 *Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices - Selection, use and maintenance* (for which Committee SF-015 *Industrial Height Safety Equipment* is responsible.)

4. Standards Australia's Actions Following Receipt of the Coroner's Findings

Following receipt of the Coroner's findings, Standards Australia provided a copy of the Coroner's findings to Technical Committees SF-015 *Industrial Height Safety Equipment* and BD-036 *Scaffolding* with a request that they consider the matters set out in the Coroner's findings, including the above recommendation. We also asked BD-036 whether the scope of project proposal discussed above should be revised to include the matters raised in the Coroner's findings.

Technical Committee SF-015 met on 15 and 16 August 2017 and have decided that the Coroner's recommendation was not within the scope of AS/NZS 1891.4:2009 *Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices - Selection, use and maintenance* and will therefore not be making any changes to AS/NZS 1891.4:2009.

Technical Committee BD-036 have agreed to positively consider the Coroner's recommendation when it meets to consider a project proposal for the revision of AS 4576 *Guidelines for Scaffolding*. As mentioned above BD-036 was expected to meet in the last quarter of 2017 and is now expected to meet in early 2018.

5. Next Steps

Standards Australia will keep the Coroner's Court Western Australia informed on the progress of Technical Committee BD-036 project to revise AS 4576 *Guidelines for Scaffolding*.

Should you have any additional questions please feel welcome to contact me on

Yours sincerely

Sherene Daniel

Corporate Services Manager