Government of **Western Australia**
WorkSafe Commissioner

Statement of regulatory intent: **Implementation of revised workplace exposure limits in Western Australia**

Valid for the period: 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027

1 Purpose

Work processes can release dusts, gases, fumes, vapours, or mists into the air. These are known as airborne contaminants and may pose a risk to health and safety. Duty holders are already required to identify, assess and control risks from all airborne contaminants and to ensure that workplace exposure standards are not exceeded.

From 1 December 2026, Australia will adopt the workplace exposure limits (WELs) for airborne contaminants, except for phosphine and diesel particulate matter, for which implementation has been deferred. 'Workplace exposure limits' is a new term, replacing 'workplace exposure standards'.

The revised workplace exposure limits follow a national review where feedback was considered before recommendations were made to Commonwealth, state and territory WHS Ministers, who agreed to the revised limits and a nationally harmonised implementation date of 1 December 2026.

This Statement sets out the principles that will guide the regulatory approach to the revised workplace exposure limits for contaminants during the first 12 months of their implementation in Western Australia. This implementation period runs from 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027.

2 Guiding principles

- During the implementation period, the regulator's WELs enforcement response will focus on education, guidance and industry engagement to support duty holders to comply with the revised limits.
- Enforcement by issuing notices or prosecution will be reserved for circumstances in which an educative approach is not appropriate, such as matters involving serious risks to health and safety. These matters will be addressed in accordance with the *WorkSafe Compliance and Enforcement Policy*.
- WorkSafe will continue to actively engage with industry, worker and employer stakeholders to ensure any compliance challenges are identified and understood.

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