

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, REHABILITATION AND
COMPENSATION: ANNUAL REPORT – 19 October 2011**

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:47): I rise to support the 12th report of the Committee on Occupational Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation. I think this is something we all need to address in a very serious way; too many people have lost their lives or have been injured in the workplace. Coming from a farming background I know how important it is to be careful, because farming is one of the most dangerous occupations—up there with mining—that can be taken on, and I am certainly well aware of the dangers within the industry.

I have a good friend up the road who was involved in a power take-off shaft incident, which tore his clothes off. Luckily he survived. Something must have blocked to stop the power take-off shaft that was revving somewhere in the vicinity of a couple of hundred revs, and it got hold of a piece of loose clothing. Thankfully he lived, even though he was injured. He is still making a full recovery but is managing to complete all his duties, although I think it still causes him a bit of grief with his ribs. There have certainly been some horrific accidents along the way. We hear of posthole diggers where people have been scalped; they have managed to be fixed up but, sadly, too many people have been involved in accidents in which they have lost their lives.

I want to bring one item to the attention of the house; I think it is linked to occupational health and safety. A constituent was involved in a major project in this state, and was subcontracting to that project, and he was going to supply a loader. He thought that perhaps the loader he had at his home base was not up to speed, as it has had a couple of oil leaks. He thought that he would do the right thing and hire a new machine. He went to this project with the brand-new machine he had hired, and he was asked, 'What's the service history?' It was a brand-new machine, straight out of the box, straight off the workshop floor and imported from America. He was told, 'No, it's got no service history.' How ridiculous! That is taking things one step too far.

After several days of trying to sort this out, he decided to go back to the hire operator and hire a machine with a few hundred hours on it just so that he could take it to the worksite and give the supervisors the service history of that machine. I think there are issues like that that need to be resolved. You would like to think that common sense would have prevailed in that case of someone turning up with a brand-new machine, with its seat still wrapped in plastic and everything shiny new. That machine was highly appropriate for the job, and you could not fault it—I believe it was a Caterpillar machine—and it would have well and truly done the job.

I am not denying at all that we have to have occupational health and safety standards, but let's have some reality in some of these incidents on worksites so that if people do turn up with a brand-new machine we do not have this ridiculous situation of someone asking for a work and service history and being overly pedantic about the history of that machine. Let's not forget that we do have to be mindful of everyone who works in this state and in this nation: we want to see that loved ones get home to their loved ones.