

# Business demands delay on safety bill

**BRAD CROUCH**

BUSINESS SA has demanded the State Government defer new workplace safety laws for at least two years in a move Premier Jay Weatherill described as very disappointing.

The peak business group said the South Australian Work Health and Safety Bill was so complex it was “unworkable” and employers might not comply because they did not understand it.

On Friday, Business SA chief executive Nigel McBride advised members it had asked the Government to defer the legislation until 2014, after previously reaching agreement on several key points. The move follows agi-

tation from members alarmed that the lobby group appeared to be supporting the changes.

In a letter to members, Mr McBride said there were significant problems with the legislation, including:

**IT** is overly complex and difficult to interpret, so is likely to result in poor compliance or even unintentional non-compliance;

**THE** sheer volume and complexity of the proposed new codes of practice are unworkable;

**THE** scheme would create an overload of paperwork and administrative requirements to a point where safety practices could be undermined;

**SMALL** businesses would be forced to use already stretched management resources to meet compliance paperwork at the cost of time on site and on the shop floor directly supervising workplace environments.

Mr McBride said the new scheme must be seen to clearly support better safety outcomes. “We do not see this deferral as detrimental to workplace safety in South Australia,” he said.

Premier Weatherill said: “The Government is very disappointed with the sudden change in position from Business SA on this very important piece of legislation.”