



Safe Work Australia - Review of the Engineered Stone Ban

In March 2025, Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to Safe Work Australia's consultation on their review of the engineered stone ban. The consultation was launched to gain further insights on how the engineered stone ban is working in practice, access to information and resources related to the ban, seek ideas for future work health and safety (WHS) research related to silica, and consult how the ban could be improved.

Cancer Council's submission covered the following:

- We supported the strong and decisive action to ban engineered stone in the face of overwhelming evidence that processing and installing engineered stone benchtops was harming and killing workers and negatively impacting their families and communities.
- We could not yet comment on whether the ban has impacted the rate of lung cancer diagnosed in workers, given that the latency period associated with lung cancer.
- It is important for Safe Work Australia and relevant state and territory WHS regulators to maintain a watching brief on the impact of new and alternative materials, as these can contain silica and still present a health risk to workers.
- Continuation of targeted inspections of stone benchtop fabricators and installers (particularly small businesses) is essential to ensure ongoing and improved compliance on silica exposure control.
- Action is needed to investigate, monitor and cease potentially misleading advertising and terminology being used by some businesses in an attempt to bypass the ban.
- To reduce consumer confusion, it is recommended that Safe Work Australia develop a national website or resource targeting consumers that seeks to provide clear, evidence-based guidance on less toxic benchtop alternatives.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on Safe Work Australia's consultation webpage: [Public Consultation on the Engineered Stone Ban - Safe Work](#)