



Commissioner for
**Resources Safety
& Health**

Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Annual report 2020–21

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Have your say

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee hopes you find the this annual report informative.

The advisory committee welcomes any comments and feedback about the report. Please send your feedback to commissioner@rshq.qld.gov.au.

28 October 2021

The Honourable Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources
1 William Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 77(1) of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, I am pleased to submit to you the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee annual report for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate', followed by a long horizontal line.

Kate du Preez

Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health

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From the Chair

In 2020–21, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee entered a new era with the commencement of the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020*. The new Act amended the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* to broaden the functions of the advisory committee and build upon the proven tripartite working arrangements that have been in place in the coal mining industry for more than 20 years.

The amendments provide a more strategic focus for the advisory committee in identifying critical risks to safety and health and serve to reinforce the advisory committee's role as an important part of the accountability framework to manage safety and health in the industry, and to ensure coal mine workers arrive home safe and healthy every day.

This year, the advisory committee developed its first five-year strategic plan. This plan provides a solid platform for the advisory committee and will serve as a roadmap in its journey towards achieving its goal of *World leading safety and health for coal mine workers*. It sets the key actions and deliverables for the upcoming years, and will ensure that the advice provided to the Minister is contemporary, relevant and evidence-based, and will have a real impact on safety and health outcomes for coal mine workers.

This year the advisory committee has met regularly to consider the current issues related to safety and health in the coal mining industry and has proactively sought to identify new and emerging issues. As an independent tripartite body, the advisory committee is uniquely placed to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister, and to industry, about improvements that can be made to the effectiveness of controls of risk, critical risk management, safety and health systems and safety culture that can make coal mine workers safer and healthier.

Over the past 12 months, its advice to the Minister has covered a broad range of topics, including recommended changes to legislation, recognised standards and competencies; the effectiveness of the controls in place to manage risk in the industry; the management of respirable dust and other airborne contaminants; the recommendations of Dr Sean Brady's *Review of all fatal accidents in Queensland mines and quarries from 2000 to 2019* and the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry; and the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

This would not be possible without the efforts of the highly competent and experienced industry professionals who make up the advisory committee and their willingness to contribute their knowledge and experience. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all of the members of the advisory committee throughout this year and to thank them for providing their experience, knowledge and expertise.



Kate du Preez

Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health

Background

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee is established by part 6 of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*.

The advisory committee is a tripartite body formed to provide advice to the Minister on coal mining safety and health. The advisory committee is an integral part of the accountability framework that is in place to manage safety and health in the industry and to ensure coal mine workers arrive home safe and healthy every day.

Under the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the chair of the advisory committee must prepare an annual report on the committee's operations for the year. The report must be given to the Minister for Resources as soon as practicable, but within four months, after the end of each financial year. The Minister must table a copy of the report in the Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days.

Functions of the advisory committee

The primary function of the advisory committee is to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at coal mines and persons who may be affected by coal mining operations.

The committee must discharge its primary function by periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to any person from coal mining operations.

The advisory committee also has the following functions:

- recognising, establishing and publishing the following competencies
 - the competencies accepted by the committee as qualifying a person to perform the tasks prescribed by regulation
 - the safety and health competencies required to perform the duties of a person under this Act
- developing a five-year strategic plan for improving the safety and health of persons at coal mines and persons who may be affected by coal mining operations
- periodically evaluating, and at least once each year updating, the five-year strategic plan
- developing action plans to achieve measurable targets set in the five-year strategic plan
- obtaining information from Resources Safety and Health Queensland to assess the fulfilment of the five-year strategic plan and the action plans
- identifying and prioritising critical risks to the safety and health of persons at coal mines and persons who may be affected by coal mining operations;
- providing advice to the coal mining industry about those risks
- providing information to the Minister about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

Membership

The advisory committee consists of 10 members, one of whom is the chairperson. Members represent the Queensland Government, coal mine workers and coal mine operators. The chair of the advisory committee is the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, Kate du Preez.

Members are appointed for terms of up to three years and there is no limit to the number of terms members can serve. Members are nominated to, and appointed by, the Minister.

The advisory committee includes members from the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), Electrical Trades Union (ETU), Queensland Resources Council (QRC) and the Queensland Mines Inspectorate (QMI) in Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ). The Chief Inspector of Mines, Coal Mines is to be a member of the advisory committee.

Table 1: Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee members for 2020–21

Name	Representing	Organisation	Meetings
Kate du Preez	Independent chair	Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health	5
Ian Cribb	Coal mine operators	QRC	5
Shaun Dobson	Queensland Government	QMI, RSHQ	1
Stephen Evetts	Coal mine workers	ETU	5
Bobbie Foot	Coal mine operators	QRC	5
Peter Newman	Queensland Government	QMI, RSHQ	5
Stephen Smyth	Coal mine workers	CFMEU	4
Mark Stone	Queensland Government	QMI, RSHQ	5

Substitute members

Substitute members are appointed to stand in when members are not available.

Table 2: Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee substitute members for 2020–21

Name	Representing	Organisation	Meetings
Kylie Ah Wong	Coal mine operators	QRC	0
Jason Hill	Coal mine workers	CFMEU	5
Clayton McCallum	Coal mine workers	ETU	0
Jim Randell ¹	Coal mine operators	QRC	5

¹ Jim Randell transitioned from a member of the advisory committee to a substitute member on 28 August 2020

Meetings held

Under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the advisory committee has an obligation to meet at least twice a year. In 2020–21, the advisory committee met a total of five times. Four of the meetings were regular scheduled meetings and one was a strategic planning workshop to develop the advisory committee’s five year strategic plan. When required, members also worked out-of-session during the year to perform their functions.

Due to uncertainty relating to COVID–19 restrictions, all meetings in 2020–21 were held in Brisbane with some members attending via videoconference. The advisory committee has previously committed to holding some of its meetings in regional areas and intends to resume this commitment in 2021–22.

Table 3: Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee meetings in 2020–21

Meeting number	Date	Location
93	2 September 2020	Brisbane
Five-year strategic plan workshop	4 November 2020	Brisbane
94	2 December 2020	Brisbane
95	9 March 2021	Brisbane
96	17 June 2021	Brisbane

Strategic objectives

With the commencement of the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020* in 2020-21, the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* was amended to broaden the functions of the advisory committee. The advisory committee must now develop, and periodically evaluate and update, a five-year strategic plan for improving the safety and health of persons at coal mines and persons who may be affected by coal mining operations.

The advisory committee developed its first five-year strategic plan in 2020-21, titled the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee 2020-2025 strategic plan*. The strategic plan serves as a roadmap for the advisory committee to achieve its vision of *World leading safety and health for coal mine workers*.

The advisory committee identified the following four strategic objectives under the strategic plan:

- A safe and healthy workplace
- A competent workforce
- An informed industry
- An effective advisory committee

The four strategic objectives are described in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee strategic objectives

Work of the advisory committee

The primary function of the advisory committee is to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at coal mines and persons who may be affected by coal mining operations.

The work of the advisory committee in 2020-21 included reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to coal mine workers; identifying, prioritising and providing advice about critical risks to safety and health; providing information about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland; recognising, establishing and publishing competencies; and engaging with stakeholders to communicate emerging harms and risk to industry.

Throughout 2020-21, the Commissioner provided regular briefs to the Minister for Resources on the advice and recommendations from the advisory committee, including information about the performance of RSHQ.

Reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to any person

The advisory committee provided independent advice and recommendations to the Minister about:

- an expert legal assessment of coal mining safety and health legislative framework
- new and revised recognised standards.

Expert legal assessment of coal mining safety and health legislative framework

In 2019–20, at the request of the then Minister for Natural Resources Mines and Energy the Hon Anthony Lynham, the advisory committee delivered an expert legal assessment of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017 and recognised standards.

The *Expert Legal Assessment CMSHA, CMSHR and Recognised Standards* was an independent assessment of the intrinsic adequacy of the legal framework and highlighted key issues for the advisory committee to consider.

The assessment was conducted by a multidisciplinary team from the University of Queensland, incorporating representatives from the Sustainable Minerals Institute's Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre, and the T.C. Beirne School of Law.

The final report was tabled in the Queensland Parliament on 6 February 2020 by the Minister.² Subsequent to the review, the Minister directed the advisory committee to establish a tripartite sub-committee to review and consider the 121 recommendations of the legal assessment. The members of the sub-committee are listed in Table 5.

In assessing the recommendations, the sub-committee examined whether the recommended amendments would materially improve the safety and health of persons working in the coal mining industry. The Sub-committee held 14 meetings in total and provided the results of their review to the advisory committee in November 2020 (see summary of the sub-committee's assessment in Table 4).

² <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/TabledPapers/2020/5620T199.pdf>

The advisory committee advised the Minister that they supported *in principle* 73 of the 121 recommendations. Regarding the remaining 48 recommendations that were not supported, the advisory committee advised that they had determined that existing provisions were sufficient or that, further prescription was not required or did not improve the effectiveness of the legislation. The advisory committee noted that the recommendations must be progressed to Resources Safety and Health Queensland to be assessed, with the details to be determined in line with government policy, parliamentary drafting processes, impacts assessment, and stakeholder consultation. The advisory committee also noted that it should be consulted on final drafting of any proposed legislative changes.

Table 4: Summary of Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee legislation effectiveness review sub-committee recommendations

Summary of recommendations	Number	Accepted	Not accepted
Definitions	21	15	6
Health	11	4	7
Policy Issues	19	7	12
Recognised standards	2	2	0
SHMS	12	7	5
SSE	12	8	4
SSHR/ISHR	7	5	2
Supervisor/OCE/ERZC	4	2	2
Technical	33	23	10
Total	121	73 (60%)	48 (40%)

Table 5: Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee legislation effectiveness review sub-committee

Member group	Member
Queensland Mines Inspectorate—chair	Peter Newman
Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union	Stephen Smyth
Queensland Resources Council	Jim Randell

Changes to regulatory framework

In 2020–21, the advisory committee worked through the recognised standards sub-committee on the development of two revised recognised standards and three new recognised standards.

The advisory committee also provided advice on a proposed new recognised standards development process.

Recognised standard for monitoring respirable dust in coal mines

The advisory committee endorsed the revised *Recognised standard 14: Monitoring respirable dust in coal mines* and recommended it to the Minister with a review in 12 months to determine its effectiveness.

The revised recognised standard states ways to achieve an acceptable level of risk to persons arising out of coal mining operations by providing minimum requirements that must be included in a coal mine's safety and health management system for monitoring, recording and reporting concentrations of respirable dust levels. The revision takes into consideration the new Safe Work Australia workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica as well.

The revised recognised standard was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 27 August 2021.

Recognised standard for management of heat in underground coal mines

The advisory committee endorsed the revised *Recognised Standard 18: Management of heat in underground coal mines* and recommended it to the Minister.

The revised recognised standard included updates based on the latest research on how to manage working in underground coal mines where it is identified that temperatures may exceed 27°C wet bulb temperature underground.

The revised recognised standard was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 27 August 2021.

Recognised standard for underground explosion barriers

The advisory committee endorsed the new *Recognised standard 21: Underground explosion barriers* and recommended it to the Minister.

The new recognised standard provides a technical standard for selection, installation, maintenance and use of stone dust barriers or other explosion barriers in underground coal mine roadways, to assist in reducing the risk of propagation of an explosion to an acceptable level.

The new recognised standard was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 6 October 2020.

Recognised standard for management structures

The advisory committee endorsed the new *Recognised standard 22: Management structures* with a 24-month transition period and recommended to the Minister that the Queensland Mines Inspectorate provides an update on implementation to the advisory committee in 12 months.

The new recognised standard stated a way for site senior executives to develop and maintain a management structure in accordance with the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* to ensure the risks from coal mining operations are maintained at acceptable levels.

The new recognised standard was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 27 August 2021.

Recognised standard for fluid power safety in coal mines

The advisory committee endorsed the new *Recognised standard 23: Fluid Power Safety in Coal Mines* and recommended it to the Minister.

The new recognised standard established the minimum safety and health standards for fluid power systems in Queensland coal mines. The implementation of this recognised standard will assist in protecting workers and other people against harm to their health and safety through the elimination or reduction of lifecycle risks associated with fluid power systems at mines. The new recognised standard was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 27 August 2021.

Recognised standards under review

At the end of 2020-21, the sub-committee was actively reviewing the following two recognised standards:

- Recognised standard 16: Use and control of polymeric chemicals at underground coal mines
- Recognised standard 4: Underground non-flameproof fire protected diesel engines.

Proposed recognised standards development flowchart

As a result of the changes to the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* that came into effect with the commencement of the *Resources Safety and Health Act 2020*, the development, review and withdrawal of recognised standards became a function of Resources Safety and Health Queensland rather than the advisory committee. As a result, Resources Safety and Health Queensland developed a recognised standards development flowchart for how the development and amendment of recognised standards will be carried out. This flowchart was presented to the advisory committee for members' feedback. Advisory committee members representing coal mine workers and coal mine operators advised Resources Safety and Health Queensland that it was vital to retain the longstanding tripartite consultation with the advisory committee on the

development and amendment of recognised standards and legislation.

Approaches to surface coal mine emergency exercises

The advisory committee provided advice to the Minister on the approaches taken to ensure Queensland's surface coal mines are prepared to respond to major emergency situations.

A level 1 mine emergency exercise is a state-level systematic exercise of emergency procedures. The exercise provides valuable recommendations and experience to the whole industry and is a vital tool in improving mine safety systems. The exercises are held annually at a selected Queensland underground coal mine and are the result of a recommendation made by the Queensland Mining Warden's inquiry into the explosion at the Moura No. 2 Mine in August 1994.

The advisory committee heard presentations from two major coal mining operators regarding their approach to emergency exercises at surface coal mines, including how the results and findings are communicated within the organisations and industry more broadly and how potential improvements are identified and implemented.

Identifying, prioritising and providing advice about critical risks to safety and health

In order to identify, prioritise and provide advice to the Minister about critical risks to safety and health, the advisory committee receives quarterly briefings from Resources Safety and Health Queensland on serious incident data, occupational health and respirable dust. The advisory committee also seeks information from other sources which can help it to advise the Minister about current and emerging risks to safety and health.

Analysis of serious accidents

In 2020–21, the advisory committee continued to conduct a standing review of quarterly serious accident data in Queensland coal mines, examining the hazards and causes of accidents and reviewing in more detail the findings and recommendations of a selection of incidents that occurred during the quarter.

The advisory committee used this information to help it to identify trends and to provide advice to the Minister on improvements that can be made to enhance safety and health performance in the industry.

This analysis has identified that the frequency of serious accidents in both underground and surface coal mines has continued to decline after a number of years of increasing serious accident frequency rates. While the results are encouraging, the advisory committee noted the need to be cautious and for Resources Safety and Health Queensland to continue to refine data collection and analysis to ensure the data collected is relevant and beneficial in improving safety and health performance.

Management of respirable dust

The advisory committee continued to monitor dust results, which are reported by industry to Resources Safety and Health Queensland on a quarterly basis, and provide advice to the Minister about effective strategies to manage this hazard at coal mines.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee noted that average dust levels and exceedances of workplace exposure standards for respirable coal dust, respirable crystalline silica and respirable dust remained low, indicating current industry controls to address dust remain effective. Where exceedances have occurred, action taken to address deficiencies has resulted in the necessary changes to reduce dust levels to below the

required workplace exposure limit. Queensland results compared favourably to results from other jurisdictions.

The advisory committee provided advice to the Minister regarding a proposal by Safe Work Australia to lower the workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica to 0.02 mg/m³ (adjusted against a standard 8-hour shift). The advisory committee expressed concerns regarding the methodology for measuring and monitoring respirable crystalline silica at the proposed lower level and the ability for industry to measure accurately and the regulator to enforce effectively the proposed workplace exposure limit due to uncertainty in measurement at low levels, close to the limit of detection.

The advisory committee also provided advice to the Minister regarding the proposals of the National Dust Disease Taskforce and the potential implications for the plan to develop a national approach for the prevention, early identification, control and management of occupational dust diseases in Australia. The advisory committee expressed concerns with the implications of adopting this proposal and that the national approach may not meet the high standards set by the Queensland Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme.

Management of carbon dioxide

In 2020–21, advisory committee members provided advice to the Minister regarding a proposal by Safe Work Australia that coal mines adopt a new workplace exposure standard for carbon dioxide (CO₂) of 5000 ppm (adjusted against a standard 8-hour shift), reduced from the current exposure standard of 12,500 ppm.

The advisory committee considered the corresponding resources safety and health legislation in New South Wales and provided advice to the Minister on the practicality of

adopting the proposed workplace exposure standard in the Queensland coal mining industry, as well as the potential health impacts for workers.

Management of diesel particulate matter

In 2020–21, the advisory committee commenced efforts to examine the management of diesel particulate matter in Queensland coal mines.

Current Queensland mining legislation does not specify a workplace exposure limit for diesel particulate matter. However, the Queensland Mines Inspectorate has adopted the limit specified in the New South Wales Machine Design Guideline MDG 29 as a guideline limit. This limit is set at 0.1 mg/m³.

The advisory committee was briefed by the Queensland Mines Inspectorate on current performance across coal mining similar exposure groups and intends to further analyse trends in 2021–22 with the intention of providing advice to the Minister on any action that may be required.

Management of mine dust lung disease

The advisory committee engaged with Resources Safety and Health Queensland on reforms related to the effectiveness of the legislative framework in meeting the recommendations 7 and 8 of the Monash review and its submission to the National Dust Disease Taskforce.

The progress of reforms in respiratory health protections in the Queensland mining industry was outlined, including health surveillance, screening, dust control and the appointment of appointed medical advisors to conduct health assessments on people employed at coal mines.

The advisory committee discussed the need for exercise caution in relation to the National Dust Disease Taskforce so as not to negatively impact

the screening and support for Queensland mine and quarry workers.

In 2021–22, the advisory committee will continue to engage with Resources Safety and Health Queensland to stay up-to-date on the Australian Government’s response to the National Dust Disease Taskforce’s final report and its potential effects on the regulatory system in Queensland.

Brady review

In 2020–21, the advisory committee continued to consider the recommendations of Dr Sean Brady’s *Review of all fatal accidents in Queensland mines and quarries from 2000 to 2019* and their implications for the safety and health of coal mine workers.

One of the key recommendations of the review was that the industry should adopt the principles of high reliability organisational theory in order to reduce the rate of serious accidents and fatalities. The advisory committee has taken an active interest in understanding the practical application of high reliability organisational theory in the Queensland coal mining industry with the aim of advising the Minister on how the industry is applying the principles and determining the gaps.

The advisory committee agreed it was important to develop a deeper understanding of the practical application of the principles of high reliability organisations as they relate to the coal mining industry. To facilitate its understanding, the advisory committee engaged with recognised experts in high reliability organisational theory, including Emeritus Professor Andrew Hopkins from the Australian National University who discussed the functional application in the Queensland coal mining industry and the practicalities of developing a healthy reporting culture.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee provided advice to the Minister regarding this

recommendation and Resources Safety and Health Queensland's role in facilitating the adoption of those principles.

In addition, in line with recommendations that the industry shift its focus from lost time injuries to serious accidents and high potential incidents as its main indicators of safety performance and reporting culture, the advisory committee has continued to review these indicators in order to provide advice to the Minister on the safety performance of the industry.

Providing information about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland

As part of the Project Management Office recommendations on enhancing the functions of the advisory committees, the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* was amended to include the function for the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee to provide advice and information to the Minister on the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee considered the format of work undertaken to assess the performance of regulators in other jurisdictions in order to inform its approach and worked with Resources Safety and Health Queensland on the development of an appropriate reporting framework. This framework is expected to be completed in 2021–22.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee provided advice to the Minister on specific matters of concern including Resources Safety and Health Queensland's approach to consultation on legislative framework.

Recognising, establishing and publishing competencies

The advisory committee is responsible for establishing, recognising and publishing the competencies qualifying a person to perform the duties of a coal mining statutory position under the Act.

The advisory committee maintains a list of approved competencies which is published on the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health's website.³ As at 30 June 2021, there were 29 competencies published for the coal mining industry. This list is periodically updated to ensure that people in coal mining statutory positions have appropriate skills and knowledge to perform their duties.

In setting the competencies, the advisory committee consults broadly, including with tripartite stakeholders, other jurisdictions and training providers.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee considered updated competencies for open cut examiners and the recommendations from the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry that it update the site senior executive competencies and works with registered training organisations to include critical control management in the standard risk management training packages.

Open cut examiners

The advisory committee considered a proposal from Resources Safety and Health Queensland and the Chief Inspector of Coal Mines to change the competency requirements for open cut examiners to ensure that people in these safety critical roles have an appropriate knowledge and understanding of potentially hazardous gasses in surface coal mines. This is to include the use of gas monitoring equipment.

³ www.commissioner.rshq.qld.gov.au

The Queensland Mines Rescue Service developed the *RIIENV301E (Conduct atmospheric monitoring)* competency to address concerns raised by Resources Safety and Health Queensland and presented to the advisory committee. The new competency will require open cut examiners to demonstrate an acceptable level of knowledge and skills to monitor and detect gas concentrations in mines and to control the risk of gas-related hazards. The advisory committee agreed to amend the required competencies for open cut examiners with a one year transition period and updated the table of competencies accordingly. The new competency will come into effect on 17 June 2022.

Site senior executives

In its part 1 report, the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry recommended that the advisory committee update the competency for site senior executives to include the *RIIWHS601E (Establish and maintain the WHS management system)* competency.

The advisory committee considered the findings on which this recommendation was made and agreed to adopt (recommendation 16) and revise the table of competencies accordingly.

Inclusion of critical control management in risk management training

In its part 1 report, the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry recommended that the advisory committee work with registered training organisations to include critical control management in the standard risk management training packages (particularly *RIIRIS601E*).

In 2020–21, the advisory committee engaged with Simtars to receive a briefing on options for implementing this recommendation, including two options for accredited training and one option for non-accredited training. It will continue to consider this recommendation in 2021–22.

Stakeholder engagement

In 2020–21, the advisory committee engaged extensively with coal mining and other stakeholders including:

- Safe Work Australia
- Australian Coal Industry’s Research Program Office
- Consultative committee for work-related fatalities and serious incidents
- Providers of onsite paramedical services at coal mines.

Consultative committee for work-related fatalities and serious incidents

In 2019–20, the advisory committee accepted a request from the chair of the *Consultative committee for work-related fatalities and serious incidents* Mr Michael Garrels to present at the 23 June 2020 advisory committee meeting on the purpose and work of the consultative committee.

Advisory committee members found that while the primary functions of the two committees were different, the work of consultative committee was important and there would be mutual benefit in maintaining an ongoing relationship.

In 2020–21, the advisory committee chair accepted an invitation to attend the 23 November 2020 meeting of the consultative committee to observe its work.

Safe Work Australia

The advisory committee continued its longstanding relationship with Safe Work Australia which provides the opportunity for open communication and discussion on the work being undertaken by the agency and its potential effect on the safety and health of Queensland coal mine workers..

The advisory committee maintained a standing quarterly update with Safe Work Australia to

discuss its progress with its review of the workplace exposure standards.

In addition, the advisory committee engaged with Safe Work Australia about the National Dust Diseases Taskforce's proposed new clinical guideline and the national occupational lung diseases awareness *Clean Air. Clear Lungs* campaign which was launched in August 2021.

Onsite paramedical capabilities at coal mines

The advisory committee engaged with a qualified rescue paramedic with extensive experience in coal mines who presented to members about issues related to onsite paramedical capabilities at coal mines.

The advisory committee explored current concerns about the difficulty in recruiting skilled and experienced paramedic practitioners to work in remote locations which has resulted in inexperienced practitioners, without appropriate experience, being contracted to provide paramedical capabilities at remote mines. This is of particular concern in remote areas where access to medical facilities may take some time.

The advisory committee explored the potential benefits of introducing guidelines to assist industry with the recruitment of suitable paramedical staff.

Expenses incurred

Members of the committee are not entitled to any remuneration other than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses and travel allowances to attend meetings.

The total expenditure incurred by the Commissioner in 2020–21 in relation to the advisory committee was \$31,735.61 including GST.

Table 6: Expenses incurred by the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health in relation to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Expense	Amount
Travel and accommodation	2,676.51
Meetings (venue hire and catering)	6,453.10
Facilitation and subject matter experts	22,606.00
Total	31,735.61



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