

Annual Report

Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

1 July 2014 - 30 June 2015

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1 Background

The Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (the Committee) is required to be established under the Part 6 – Industry consultative arrangements of the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* (the Act).

An annual report on the Committee's operations must be prepared by the chairperson as soon as practicable, but within four months, after the end of each financial year and given to the Minister.

The Minister must table the report in the Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days of receipt of this report.

2 Role

The primary function of the Committee is to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at mines.

The Committee must discharge its function by periodically reviewing:

- The effectiveness of the Act, regulations and guidelines
- The effectiveness of the control of risk to any person from operations.

In periodically reviewing effectiveness the Committee must have regard to:

- The risk management performance of the mining industry
- The appropriateness of guidelines
- Education, training, and standards of competency within the mining industry
- The implementation of recommendations from inspectors' investigations, coroners' inquests, boards of inquiry, and other sources
- The promotion of community knowledge and awareness of safety and health in the mining industry
- Any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

The Committee also has the function of:

- Establishing, recognising and publishing the competencies accepted by it as qualifying a person to perform the stated tasks; and the safety and health competencies required to perform the duties of a person under the Act.
- Making recommendations about individuals nominated to be district workers' representatives, if asked by the Minister.

3 Membership

The Committee, consisting of nine members representing the mines inspectorate, workers and operators, are nominated to and appointed by the Minister. The membership term is three years.

The Committee Chairperson is the Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health.

Table 1: Committee members as at 30 June 2015

Name	Membership	Organisation
Mr Paul Harrison	Chair Acting Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Mr Phil Goode	Inspectors' Representative	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Ms Julie Dryden	Inspectors' Representative	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Ms Maryann Wipaki	Operators Representative	Queensland Resources Council (Glencore)
Mr Grant Egginton	Operators Representative	Queensland Resources Council (BHPB)
Mr Hamish Beattie	Operators Representative	Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia
Mr Daryl Harrison	Workers' Representative	Australian Workers Union
Mr Troy McKernan	Workers' Representative	Australian Workers Union
Mr Rick Finch	Workers' Representative	Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
Mr Simon Delander	Operators Representative	Queensland Resources Council (Evolution Mining)
Mr Peter Ambrose	Operators Representative	Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia
Ms Stacey Schinnerl	Workers' Representative	Australian Workers Union
Mr Terry Bradley	Workers' Representative	Australian Manufacturing Workers Union

4 Meetings held

During the reporting period the following committee meetings were held:

Table 2: Meetings held 2014–2015

Meeting Number	Date	Location
43	25 September 2014	Cancelled due to lack of a quorum of members being available
44	11 December 2014	Brisbane
45	19 March 2015	Brisbane
46	25 June 2015	Brisbane

5 Issues reviewed

5.1 Legislation changes

The Committee was briefed at each meeting on the progress of implementing changes to the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* proposed as options in Queensland's Mine Safety Framework Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement which was issued for comment in September 2013. Two hundred and forty-six submissions were received by the closure date of November 2013.

Many of the submissions were lengthy and detailed. It has taken significant time to complete a thorough analysis and to ensure the best outcomes for legislative change are recommended.

As a consequence, the remake of the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2001 (the Regulation), which was due in 2011 has continued to be deferred and cannot be finalised until after the passage of the proposed Act amendments. In the meantime the committee members are reviewing the Regulation to identify changes for consideration in the remake.

In the context of making these changes, the Committee approved a list of reportable diseases for inclusion in the Regulation. The Committee is also considering changes to the working in heat provisions of the Regulation in relation to lowering of the wet bulb temperature. The Committee discussed provision for development of hazard management plans for proven fatal hazards such as falls (of people, rock, material, equipment) and vehicle collisions.

5.2 Guidance Notes, Guidelines, Safety Bulletins and other information materials

One function of the Committee is to peer-review the appropriateness of industry guidance information and create awareness of other information sources.

During this period a number of guidance notes and other industry advice were drafted and discussed. These included guidance notes on facility description, major accident hazards such as falls, roles and responsibilities of site safety and health representatives, exploration activities, shaft construction, and a safety bulletin on health and fitness assessments.

A guideline on naturally occurring radioactive minerals (NORM) was also issued during the period. An industry training course for the 'person appointed to supervise a radiation monitoring program', which is a mandatory position identified in the NORM Guideline, has been developed. This was done in

conjunction with Simtars which will also assist with delivery of the course and with certification of the course at Certificate IV level.

A recent report issued by the Western Australia government on the impacts of fly in fly out work on mental health was circulated as was other fatigue education materials. This material was produced by the Queensland Police Service in consultation with industry following a coroner's recommendation into the fatigue-related death of several motorists in Central Queensland mining areas.

5.3 Mining Competency Framework

The Committee received updates on the Chief Inspector's participation in the Australasian Mining Competency Advisory Council (AMCAC), which is a product of the National Mine Safety Framework process, aimed at progressing consistency of statutory competencies between Australian State and Trans-Tasman mining regulators. The inaugural meeting was held in November 2014 with subsequent meetings held in February and June 2015. Representatives from Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand attended. A Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared by the council for ratification by a relevant representative from each jurisdiction.

One of the proposed options in the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement is to increase the number of positions in the metalliferous mining and quarrying industry requiring a certificate of competency. One such position is that of quarry manager. The Chief Inspector of Mines has held discussions with the Institute of Quarrying (IQA) regarding the adoption of the IQA's Quarry Managers and Supervisors Certification System (QMSCS) as the process for providing certificates of competency for the statutory positions of Quarry Manager and Quarry Supervisor.

Consequently the General Manager for the IQA presented to the Committee on the QMSCS. The prescribed training modules for the QMSCS include two modules which have been specifically developed, with input from the Queensland Mines Inspectorate, to address understanding of the Queensland legislation and risk management systems. The IQA sought and received Queensland Government funding for 2015 to assist quarrying companies in covering the cost for their managers and supervisors to obtain the certification. Unfortunately, the response was disappointing; only 15 people took up the opportunity despite there being sufficient funds for 80 people to do so.

The Committee also received updates by the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS) on current and planned mine surveying competencies and initiatives to maintain and improve current survey standards.

The Committee tabled its concerns regarding the standards of training and competencies being offered by Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). The Committee had identified advertising by two RTOs indicating that competencies for certain metalliferous and quarrying training courses, involving mobile equipment, could be obtained within a timeframe the Committee felt was too short to be adequate.

The Committee resolved to send letters to the two RTOs detailing their obligations for providing an acceptable standard of training under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* (the Act) and the implications under the Act for failing to do so. In addition, the Committee resolved to issue a Safety Bulletin to industry discussing expectations about verifying the competency of employees who have been issued certificates of competency by RTOs where the employer is not familiar with the particular RTO's training and assessment process.

5.4 Emergency response capability

Mutual emergency response agreements are being progressed for underground mines in the Charters Towers area to bolster the overall response capability for individual mines.

Historically, industry has considered mines rescue competitions as being a beneficial means of testing and improving the industry's emergency response capability. The Committee is concerned that in recent years no competitions have been held. The Committee resolved to contact the Queensland Mines Rescue Service to enlist their involvement in helping to organise mine rescue competitions for underground metalliferous mines.

5.5 Health Improvement and Awareness Committee - HIAC

The Queensland Mining Health Improvement and Awareness Committee (HIAC) was established in 2008 to assist industry anticipate, identify, evaluate and control health hazards in the mining environment.

Each Committee meeting included an update on activities undertaken by HIAC. These included participation in a Participatory Ergonomics Seminar, a seminar in collaboration with WorkCover covering musculoskeletal injury – immediate and ongoing management, and a seminar arranged by WorkCover on working together to improve mental health.

HIAC is currently undergoing a review led by Professor Tony Parker AM from the Queensland University of Technology with the assistance of industry, unions and Simtars representatives.

5.6 Terms of appointment - Advisory Committee

Membership of the Advisory Committee ceased on 31 July 2015 for all members - a common date was chosen to facilitate an easier more streamlined nomination process. Hag Harrison resigned from his position as the Australian Workers Unions representative, due to his retirement.

6 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.

Table 3: Expenses incurred and claimed by Committee Members 2014 –2015

Date	Member	Airfare	Accommodation	Amount
11/12/14	Darryl Harrison	\$714.06	NA	\$714.06
25/6/15	Rick Finch	\$496.64	\$130.00	\$624.64