

# **Annual Report**

## **Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee**

**1 July 2015 - 30 June 2016**

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## 1 Background

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

The Committee must discharge its function by periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the:

- Act, regulations and recognised standards
- control of risk to any person from coal mining operations.

In periodically reviewing effectiveness the Committee must have regard to:

- the risk management performance of the coal mining industry
- the appropriateness of recognised standards
- education, training, and standards of competency within the coal 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 coal 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.

## 3 Membership

The Committee consists of nine members representing the Mines Inspectorate, workers and operators who are nominated to and appointed by the Minister and an Independent Chair also appointed by the Minister.

The Committee includes members from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and energy Union (CFMEU), Electrical Trade Union (ETU), Queensland coal mining industry, and the Mines Inspectorate within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

The Chairperson is the Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health; on 13 June 2016 the Minister appointed Mrs Kate Du Preez as the Independent Chair of the Committee.

On 20 December 2015 membership of 8 of the members of the Committee expired.

On 21 December 2015: Mr George Schuller (Industry) was appointed to the Committee and Mr Glenn Hall (ETU), Mr Stephen Smyth (CFMEU), Mr Gregory Dallison (CFMEU), and Mr James Randall, Mr Russell Albury (DNRM) and Mr Neil Reynoldson (DNRM) were reappointed as Committee members; Mr James Garland (Industry) and Mr Peter Baker (Industry) were appointed as substitute members and Mr Stephen Evetts (ETU) and Mr Jason Hill (CFMEU) were reappointed as substitute members.

Seven meetings and a planning day were held in this 2015/16 reporting period.

**Table 1: Committee members as at 30 June 2016**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Membership</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Kate DuPreez (Chairperson)	Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health	Independent Chair
Russell Albury	Inspectors' Representative	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Neil Reynoldson	Inspectors' Representative	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Stephen Smyth	Workers' Representative	Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union – Mining and Energy Division
Greg Dalliston	Workers' Representative	Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union – Mining and Energy Division
Glenn Hall	Workers' Representative	Communications Electrical Plumbing Union – Electrical Division
Ian Cribb	Operators' Representative	Queensland Resources Council (Xstrata Coal Australia)
George Schuller	Operators' Representative	Queensland Resources Council (Peabody Energy)
Jim Randell	Operators' Representative	Queensland Resources Council (New Hope Group)

## 4 Meetings held

During the reporting period the following Committee meetings were held:

**Table 2: Meetings held 2015–2016**

<b>Meeting Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
68	9 December 2015	Brisbane
69	6 April 2016	Brisbane
70	7 April 2016	Brisbane
71	26 April 2016	Brisbane

72	11 May 2016	Brisbane
73	25 May 2016	Brisbane
74	8 June 2016	Brisbane

## 5 Issues reviewed

### 5.1 Ministerial interaction

Minister Lynham opened the 26 April 2016 meeting, acknowledging the role of the Committee in providing him advice and recommendations, and promoting and protecting the safety and health of workers.

The Minister said he was committed to addressing the re-emergence of coal workers pneumoconiosis (CWP), and requested the committee to advise him on a number of priority areas. He asked the committee to support the development of a Recognised Standard for dust monitoring, emphasising the importance of this area for him, and requesting advice by the 31st of May.

The Minister asked the Committee to consider the support of recommendations from the Monash review. He requires the committee to advise him on how best to support the final recommendations of the review and asked the committee to start with the report's interim recommendation on establishing an appropriate cohort of suitably qualified NMAs.

### 5.2 Recognised standard subcommittee

The Committee has convened a tripartite recognised standards subcommittee, whose members worked on the following draft recognised standards during 2015-16:

- The Minister requested the Committee develop a Recognised Standard on dust monitoring and reporting. A working group was established and the Recognised Standard: Monitoring Respirable dust in coal mines, is now at final draft stage
- Underground Respirable Dust Control
- QGN24 Develop and implement management structure, was evaluated and Committee members agreed it should go the Recognised Standard sub-committee for final review as a Recognised Standard
- Use of polymeric substances at Queensland underground coal mines
- All tyres and rims (resulting from the Coroner's findings and recommendations in the Wayne MacDonald Inquiry)
- Place change mining, at final draft stage

The Committee also discussed the need to have suitable personal dust monitoring equipment certified for use in Queensland underground coal mines, and if this is to be prescribed in a Recognised Standard.

### 5.3 Legislative amendments

Amendments to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001 to accommodate changes to dust monitoring and the coal mine workers health scheme arising from the re-emergence of coal workers pneumoconiosis were discussed and agreed to in four of the six Committee meetings held during 2015-16. The amendments are currently at an advanced stage with the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel drafter.

## **5.4 Updated recognised competencies**

A major role of the Committee is to recognise the competencies required for roles and positions mentioned in mine safety and health legislation. Recognised competencies are available on the department's website.

Updating and adding to these competencies from time to time is a necessary Committee function. The Committee recognised updates to competencies for those certifying mine plans, and for persons in charge of winders. There was also a general update to competency unit designators due to changes implemented by the training industry.

## **5.5 Raising the Committee profile**

The Committee has instituted measures to raise its profile in the mining industry, including a presentation on the Committee and its role, and introducing the members at the 2016 Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference. Holding Committee meetings in mining regional areas has also been decided upon, with the first meeting in 2017 to be held in Toowoomba.

## **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.

Four air-fares totalling \$1347.08 were provided to committee member Glenn Hall to travel to and from four Committee meetings during 2015/16.