

Annual Report

Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

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1 Background

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (the Committee) is required to be established under the *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
- The effectiveness of the 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, consisting of nine members representing the mines inspectorate, coal mine workers and coal mine 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
Paul Harrison	Chair Acting Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Vacant	Inspectors' Representative	Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Russell Albury	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)
Brett Garland	Operators' Representative	Queensland Resources Council (Caledon Coal Pty Ltd)
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 2013-2014

Meeting Number	Date	Location
64	17 September 2014	Brisbane
65	10 December 2014	Brisbane
66	4 March 2015	Brisbane
67	3 June 2015	Brisbane

5 Issues reviewed

5.1 Competencies recognised by the Advisory Committee

A major role of the Committee is to recognise the competencies required for roles and positions mentioned in the mine safety legislation. The competencies so recognised are tabled on the department webpages.

Updating and adding to these from time to time is also a necessary Committee function.

During the year the Committee looked at several submissions proposing changes to the competencies it recognises. These related to brake-testing competencies and surveyors' qualifications.

The Committee recognised updates to surveyors' competencies, and also a general update to competency unit designators due to changes implemented by the training industry.

5.2 Committee's strategic direction

The Committee spent time reviewing its strategic direction, creating a Vision statement - To be seen as the prime advisory body to the Minister and the industry, ensuring continuing improvement in safety and health in coal mining, and a Mission statement –

- To engage stakeholders in developing strategies for the improvement of safety and health through participation and co-operation with coal operators, site senior executives and coal workers to achieve the objects of the Act
- To represent and influence the industry to improve safety and health
- To develop and maintain effective communication with the Minister
- To review and recommend improvement to safety and health in coal mines.

The Committee discussed its current concerns and determined that its key focus areas needed to be:

- Engagement
- Representation and influence within the industry
- Ministerial relationship – advice and support
- Reviewing and making recommendations required under the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001, section 76.

5.3 Codes of Practice subcommittee

The Committee convened a tripartite Codes of Practice subcommittee, whose role includes reviewing and making recommendations on national Codes of Practice.

The sub-committee utilised subject experts and consulted industry as required.

Over 11 meetings during the year, it also worked on the following four draft Recognised Standards:

- Use of polymeric substances at Queensland underground coal mines
- Emergency preparedness and response
- All tyres and rims (resulting from the Coroner's findings and recommendations from the Wayne MacDonald Inquiry)
- Place change mining.

All of these standards have progressed substantially during the year.

Recognised Standard No. 1 Underground electrical equipment and electrical installations was amended and updated.

5.4 Health Improvement and Awareness Committee

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.

The Committee received regular updates from HIAC on its activities during the year, including 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.

5.5 Proposed legislative changes

During the year the Committee looked at several submissions proposing changes to the mining safety legislation. These related to sections of the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001 on:

- Strata control activities
- Levels of electrical protection and other options
- Operations that are excluded from the mines responsibility.

Further evaluation of these submissions is currently underway.

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 by the Committee 2014–2015

Member	Expense Description	Amount
Communications Electrical Plumbing Union – Electrical Division representative	Three return airfares, Mackay - Brisbane	712.92
Session Facilitator	One return airfare and overnight accommodation	800.75
Total expenses incurred		\$1513.67