

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 444

asked on Tuesday, 19 May 2020

MR J KRAUSE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Grosvenor coal mine near Moranbah—

Will the Minister advise (a) the dates of inspections and audits undertaken by the mines inspectorate during 2018-19 and 2019-20 (reported separately), (b) the number of safety complaints the mines inspectorate received about the mine since 1 July 2018, (c) the number of infringement notices issued at the mine since 1 July 2018, and (d) the reasons for these infringement notices being issued?

ANSWER:

- (a) Ten inspections were undertaken at the Grosvenor coal mine by the Mines Inspectorate in the 2018-19 financial year. Up until the explosion on 6 May 2020, the inspectorate had conducted eight inspections and one audit at the mine in the 2019-20 financial year.
- 6 August 2018 Inspection
 - 21 August 2018 Inspection
 - 21 September 2018 Inspection
 - 5 October 2018 Inspection
 - 30 October 2018 Inspection
 - 13 November 2018 Inspection
 - 27 November 2018 Inspection
 - 11 December 2018 Inspection
 - 13 March 2019 Inspection
 - 27 May 2019 Inspection
 - 2 July 2019 Inspection
 - 21 August 2019 Inspection
 - 15 October 2019 Inspection
 - 21 January 2020 Inspection
 - 13 February 2020 Inspection
 - 13 February 2020 Audit
 - 19 February 2020 Inspection (unannounced)
 - 19 March 2020 Inspection
 - 15 April 2020 Inspection
- (b) Two safety complaints relating to the mine were received by the Mines Inspectorate between 1 July 2018 and 6 May 2020.
- (c) Under the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, the Mines Inspectorate has no powers to issue infringement notices; however, under that Act, an inspector may issue directives requiring certain action in prescribed circumstances,

including where an inspector considers risk is at an unacceptable level or a mine's safety and health management system is ineffective.

In addition, an inspector may issue substandard condition or practice notices (SCPs) where the inspector considers improvements or modifications to site practices should be implemented to enhance risk controls or safety practices.

From 1 July 2018 to 6 May 2020, the Mines Inspectorate issued three directives and 10 SCPs to the mine. Since the incident on 6 May 2020, a further two directives have been issued, both relating to investigation of the incident.

(d) The directives and SCPs were issued during this period for reasons relating to:

- Access control
- Strata control
- Structural integrity including anchors for shipping containers
- Plant and equipment installation and safety
- Electrical equipment
- Water quality and welding fume management
- Gas monitoring
- Managing the investigation of the serious accident.

The recently established independent board of inquiry will inquire into recent events at the Grosvenor coal mine and other underground coal mines. The board's consideration will potentially extend to the subject matter of directives and SCPs issued to the mine. Publication of further details may pre-empt the board's consideration or compromise its, or the Mines Inspectorate's, investigation into the serious accident and any future criminal or other judicial proceedings which may arise in relation to the serious accident.

The board will produce a report on its findings and recommendations at the conclusion of the inquiry, which will be tabled in parliament.