Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mining Industry Advisory Committee meeting on 11 October 2018

1. First meeting since appointment of new members

Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) Chair, Mr Andrew Chaplyn, Director of Mines Safety at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) welcomed new and returning members. He advised that the term of previous members expired on 30 July 2018, which provided an opportunity to reconstitute membership of MIAC. He noted the diversity and expertise of the new committee.

2. DMIRS Structure and working relationships

The Chair explained the structure of DMIRS and the reporting lines and working relationships between the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner, DMIRS Director General, Commission for Occupational Safety and Health and the Safety Regulation Group of DMIRS.

3. Presentation – Work Health and Safety legislation presentation

Members received a presentation from Mr Anil Atri, Senior Inspector of Mines, DMIRS. He provided an update on progress towards introducing model work health and safety (WHS) laws in Western Australia.

Mr Anil Atri advised that DMIRS is in the process of developing three sets of regulations to support the WHS Act: mining, petroleum and general industry. General regulations will also apply to mines. The mines specific regulations will be discussed with MIAC members and nominated subject experts in November 2018.

4. Mental Health Strategies Working Group

The Chair provided background information regarding the Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG) and the FIFO Code of Practice (Code). He advised that the Code is a government significant priority and that the findings of research sponsored by the Mental Health Commission will need to be considered in the codes final drafting.

There was discussion regarding the complexity of the Code and the different perspectives regarding its content, scope and target audience. MIAC members agreed that the MHSWG should not meet again until the Code has been finalised.

5. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group

The Chair gave MIAC members a brief history of the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group (nDPMWG).

He advised that the final research report is anticipated to be released by the end of 2018.

6. Significant incident reports

MIAC members reviewed Significant Incident Reports (SIRs) 263-268.

Members discussed SIR 267, which relates to a fatal accident when a haul truck operator lost control when descending a ramp on a haul road. There was conversation regarding safety issues affecting trucks on mine sites.

It was noted that there is a trend of incidents similar to SIR 268, a near miss when accumulator components were ejected from a haul truck. DMIRS is looking at publishing a bulletin on the topic and MIAC members were encouraged to review the Hazard Register on the DMIRS website.

7. Mines Safety statistics

Members considered the current mines safety statistic reports.

There was discussion regarding the lost time and restricted work hand injury statistics and common causes of hand injuries. The Chair advised that injury and fatality data is used to inform prioritisation of DMIRS' proactive inspection and education programs.

MIAC members talked about the difference in energy sources between life-threatening and non-life-threatening injuries.

The Chair reinforced that DMIRS can include other graphs upon request. He told MIAC members they can request data for a particular focus area if needed.

8. Towards 2020 commitments

The Chair provided members with an update on the Mines Safety Directorate's progress towards achieving the Towards 2020 commitments. Members talked about the Safety Regulation System.

There was discussion regarding the need for industry to consider human and organisational factors when carrying out investigations into incidents. It was noted that investigation methodologies currently in-use by industry, such as ICAM, are capable of incorporating human and organisational factors.

9. Next meeting: 6 December 2018

For further information on the Mining Industry Advisory Committee, please refer to the MIAC page on the DMIRS website - http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/What-is-the-Mining-Industry-8578.aspx.

Andrew Chaplyn – Chair