

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mining Industry Advisory Committee meeting on 20 April 2017

1. **Draft *Ventilation in Western Australian mining operations* code of practice – update**

Feedback received during the second round of public consultation is being considered in amending the draft code. Once revised, there will be a final period of public consultation in mid-2017 and a workshop (dates to be advised). The final draft of the code of practice will then be considered for endorsement at a future MIAC meeting.

2. **Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) code of practice and guideline**

Members noted that the current NORM Guideline series, *Managing naturally occurring radioactive material in mining and mineral processing*, contains some outdated information, and procedures which are inconsistent with national and international safety standards.

DMP, the Department of Health and the Radiological Council are reviewing the guidelines, to develop guidance that adopts a risk-based approach, reduces prescription and complements existing international best practice.

It is expected that the draft NORM code of practice and supporting guide will be released as a package to stakeholders for feedback in late 2017.

3. **Towards 2020: Regulatory strategy for Resources Safety**

This regulatory strategy was developed to provide an overview of the regulator's commitments, so industry can better understand why focus areas are targeted, the desired outcomes, measures and achievements. It was also based on recommendations from the [Deloitte Report: 2016 Mines Safety Branch Resourcing and Funding Independent Assessment](#).

Towards 2020 was released on the Department's website on 1 May 2017.

4. **Elevated work platforms (EWP)**

Members noted the feedback from a recent Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) workshop on the issues relating to EWPs in both surface and underground mines and agreed DMP should develop a website page with links to relevant standards, case studies and guidance material, plus an article in *Resources Safety Matters* magazine.

5. **Fibrous mineral regulation and management**

Following the withdrawal of the Mines Safety Bulletin No 131: *Management of fibrous minerals on mining operations – sampling and detecting fibrous minerals, cleavage fragments and particles < 1.5 µm (any dimension)*, a CME/DMP Working Group was established to refer the matter to Safe Work Australia (SWA) who will be reviewing the exposure standards nationally. A joint CME/DMP referral letter was sent to SWA on 12 April 2017.

6. **Presentation: Safety Regulation System (SRS)**

The Department delivered a presentation on recent updates to SRS.

Mine record book entries now use electronic Site Visit Records (SVRs) in SRS, rather than handwritten notes or Word documents. Improvement and Prohibition Notices are also now issued electronically. This captures information in an efficient, timely and consistent manner, often whilst onsite. Industry can also advise DMP of any rectifying actions via SRS, which enables better tracking. Data can also be reported and analysed more efficiently.

7. Cancer Council factsheets

The Cancer Council has released [factsheets](#) about occupational hazards associated with asbestos, diesel engine exhaust, environmental tobacco smoke, solar ultraviolet radiation and welding. The factsheets also provide risk management guidance about minimising exposure.

8. Measurement of diesel particulates

Members noted a paper by Chris Davis and Professor Emeritus Odwyn Jones, *Occupational Hazard of inhaling Diesel Exhaust Fumes – Future Directions (2017)*.

9. Mental Health Strategies Working Group update

Members noted there was nothing to report since the last meeting. Next meeting is 23 May 2017.

10. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group update

Members noted the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group report. A mine site has indicated interest in participating in the research, subject to assessment of suitability and further discussions with research members of the Working Group. DMP will coordinate a meeting between the mine and the researchers.

11. Significant Incident Reports

Members noted Significant Incident Report No. 250 *Unexpected initiation of detonator and detonating cord* and Significant Incident Report No. 251 *Worker seriously injured while operating a block-making machine*.

12. Mines Safety Statistics

Members noted the mines safety statistics in the agenda papers and agreed that members could distribute it externally. DMP also publishes an annual Safety Performance Digest and includes statistics in Resources Safety Matters magazine. When improved business intelligence reporting is developed, industry will have better access to safety data.

13. Project Register

Members noted the Mines Safety Project Register. Members also requested the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies consider hosting a forum on working in isolated areas.

14. MIAC Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the Mining Industry Advisory Committee for this period.

15. Other business

Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis (CWP – a.k.a. ‘Black Lung Disease’)

Members requested a copy of the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis presentation by Associate Professor Deborah C. Glass. The Department is advising the Minister for Mines and Petroleum on Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis matters and considering appropriate actions.

16. Next MIAC meeting: 15 June 2017

For further information on the Mining Industry Advisory Committee, please email RSDCommittees@dmp.wa.gov.au

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A/Chair