

# Mining Industry Advisory Committee

## COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 12 February 2020

Mining Industry Advisory Committee meeting

### **1. Revised Workplace Exposure Standards (WES) for Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) and Respirable Coal Dust (RCD)**

MIAC members were provided with a presentation on the proposed WES for RCS and RCD. This included background on issues and processes involved for implementation. All Work Health and Safety (WHS) ministers have agreed to reduce the WES for RCS to 0.05 mg/m<sup>3</sup> and RCD to 1.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. It is proposed the new WES for RCS will apply to WA workplaces from 1 July 2020 and the WES for RCD from 1 July 2022. Work is currently underway within DMIRS regarding the necessary changes to both the general and mining legislation for the implementation to take place. For changes to be made to mining legislation regarding WES, advice from MIAC needs to be provided to the Minister in writing.

MIAC members requested that they have time to seek feedback from their stakeholders regarding the new WES prior to the committee endorsing advice to the Minister.

### **2. Diesel Particulate standard – MIAC letter for Minister**

MIAC were provided with a summary of a briefing note and proposed letter from the MIAC Chair to the Minister recommending the implementation of WES for diesel particulate matter (DPM). MIAC members requested the briefing note and letter be circulated to COSH for their information.

### **3. Novel Coronavirus**

The Chair noted the information received by MIAC from DMIRS regarding communications to industry about the novel coronavirus, noting the lead agency for information dissemination was the Australian Government.

### **4. Codes of Practice flowchart**

MIAC members discussed the process followed in developing new Codes of practice within DMIRS Safety Regulation Group. MIAC discussion focused on the timeframe taken (two years) to develop new codes. The Chair highlighted shifting priorities and resources as a determining factor in the time taken to develop a code.

## **5. Work Health and Safety legislation**

Mr Anil Atri, DMIRS, provided a verbal update on the progress of the WHS legislation process and the regulation consultation process.

## **6. Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG)**

The Chair provided a verbal update on progress of the group, including information that DMIRS is finalising a draft report based on recommendations of the Jacob's report.

## **7. Significant incident reports**

Two Mines Safety Bulletins were issued since the last MIAC meeting, as shown below:

[MSB No. 170: Braking performance of relocation systems for heavy mining](#) - 58 Kb

[MSB No. 169: Managing noise-induced hearing loss \(NIHL\) in the Western Australian mining industry](#) - 66 Kb

## **8. Mines Safety statistics**

The Chair presented statistical graphs prepared by DMIRS. These graphs indicate trends in the number of notifiable incidents reported, lost time injury frequency rate, fatal incidence rate since 2008-09, number of site visits by inspectors and improvement/prohibition notices issued.

## **9. Towards 2020 Commitments**

The Chair spoke to presentation slides which provided an update on the Mines Safety Directorate's progress in achieving the *Towards 2020* commitments. The Chair highlighted that Towards 2020 Commitments were coming to a close.

## **10. QLD mining and quarry fatalities review report**

MIAC agreed to review and consider the recently released Queensland report and how its recommendations apply to the WA mining industry.

## **11. Next meeting: 8 April 2020**

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>.

Christina Folley – Acting Chair