

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 12 June 2019
Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) meeting

1. Commission of Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) planning day

MIAC input was sought for the upcoming COSH planning day. Two questions were posed:

- ***What are the key trends on the horizon that will impact COSH and/or occupational safety and health in Western Australia over the next five years?*** Responses included: mental health issues, skills shortages, training gaps, silicosis, risk management, casualisation of the workforce and legislative change.
- ***What are the key initiatives or strategic directions that COSH must undertake over the next five years?*** Responses included: meeting community expectations, empowering individuals, implementing harmonised solutions, raising COSH profile, obtaining accurate and consistent data, and lifting the safety performance of small business.

2. Work health and safety training

MIAC members were provided with a presentation on the national competencies for safety and health qualifications, the vocational education and training system, and DMIRS involvement. Major proposed changes include development of a series of units on the management of hazardous chemicals (new terminology), and introducing a psychological well-being unit. Skill sets have also been developed for ventilation roles. Official endorsement of the proposed changes is pending.

3. Nano diesel particulate matter

MIAC members were provided with an overview of the final research report – *A Study of Nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) Behaviour and Physico-chemical Changes in Underground Hard Rock Mines of Western Australia*. Members were advised that DMIRS had engaged a PhD student to conduct a full literature search on the topic.

4. Hearing testing

Expert member Ms Meagan Smart noted hearing testing was creating confusion in industry. The meaning of 'prescribed workplace' in terms of a worker receiving, or likely to receive, a personal noise dose of 90dB(A) or above during an eight hour shift was clarified. Members noted there are no regulatory requirements for a baseline hearing test under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act (WA) 1994* as it is covered under workers' compensation. Members requested DMIRS release advice on the requirements for both general and mining workplaces.

5. Prioritising Codes of Practice

COSH, through the Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC), has tasked MIAC with reviewing mining-related Codes of Practice and guidance material in preparation for the proposed Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation. In addition, some Codes will apply to both general workplaces and mining, and will require collaborative review by both LAC and MIAC.

6. Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG)

MHSWG Chair provided fellow MIAC members with a progress update of the Group's activities. The webpages supporting mentally healthy workplaces are now available on the DMIRS website.

7. Significant incident reports

The Chair noted two Significant Incident Reports (SIRs) and one Mining Safety Bulletin (MSBs), which had been issued by DMIRS since the previous meeting. These included:

- SIR Number 275: [Electrician received 1000V electric shock and burns](#)
- SIR Number 276: [Fall from height after failure of retractable type lanyard](#)
- MSB No. 164: [Wheels detaching from graders](#)

The content of Mines Safety Bulletin No. 164 regarding wheel detachment from graders was debated and DMIRS agreed to review the content.

8. Mines Safety statistics

The Chair presented statistical graphs prepared by DMIRS. The CME representative advised that CME is conducting its own safety data analysis, involving a suite of serious incidents, with the aim of identifying key issues. A similar analysis had been completed 12 years previously.

9. Towards 2020 Commitments

The Chair spoke to a presentation that detailed the work that Mines Safety Directorate is doing to progress the *Towards 2020* commitments.

10. 2019 Work Health and Safety (WHS) Excellence Awards

The Chair advised members that the WHS Excellence Awards judging panel did not have enough industry or employer representation. Ms Elysha Millard and Ms Meagan Smart nominated for the panel.

11. Next meeting: 14 August 2019

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

Andrew Chaplyn – Chair