

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 06 December 2018
Mining Industry Advisory Committee meeting

1. Mobile elevating work platforms webpage

Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) Chair, Mr Andrew Chaplyn, Director of Mines Safety at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) advised that the new *Guidance on mobile elevating work platforms (MEWP)* webpage was now accessible on the DMIRS website, at:

<http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/Guidance-on-mobile-elevating-24669.aspx>

2. Mines Safety Roadshow and Safety and Health Representatives: Presentation

Mr Martin Ralph presented to MIAC regarding the recently held Mines Safety Roadshow, which was attended by over 800 people.

Members acknowledged positive industry feedback on the roadshows and discussed issues such as the insufficient number of safety and health representatives in the mining sector, prevalence of mental health and bullying issues and under-reporting of incidents.

3. Health and Hygiene Management Plans

Mr Martin Ralph presented on the new requirements for Health and Hygiene Management Plans (HHMPs) for all registered mine sites. The presentation also covered the consultation that was undertaken in the period leading to Stage One (HHMP Risk Assessment Submission). Mr Ralph also informed members that the new traffic light system, which seeks to identify compliance, would be implemented in early 2019.

The presentation generated interest from members, especially around Safety and Health Representatives and contractors, with Mr Ralph providing answers to members' queries.

4. MIAC Strategic Planning 2019

The Chair advised members that the Legislative Advisory Committee would consider the approved codes of practice and guidance notes in Western Australia at its first meeting in 2019. Members discussed the most appropriate timing for the MIAC strategic planning, in the context of the Commission's first meeting in 2019.

Members decided that a few MIAC members should meet separately before the Strategic Planning session. It was also suggested that the structured strategic planning session should be run by a facilitator. There was general agreement that MIAC's strategic planning should be completed in the first quarter of 2019, to allow for the Commission to prioritise actions and give directives.

5. Ground Control Management in WA Mining Operations – Guideline and Code of Practice

The Chair urged members to participate (by making submissions) during the public comment period for the two new draft documents *Ground control for WA mining operations code of practice* and the *Ground control for WA mining operations guideline*.

The public comment period closes on 1 March 2019.

No significant concerns with the draft content were raised and members supported the documents being released for consultation.

6. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group

Mr Martin Ralph provided MIAC members with an update on the nano diesel particulate matter (nDPM) research. He advised members that the nDPM working group will meet in early 2019 and that the research outcomes will then be communicated to MIAC.

The Chair explained that DMIRS will endeavour to connect the working group with the New South Wales Government team that is also developing a paper on the topic.

7. Mental Health Strategies Working Group

The Chair updated members regarding the Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG) and the FIFO Code of Practice (Code). Members were advised that the draft Code was being formalised for Ministerial approval, before it is presented to the Working Group for its consideration and endorsement in early 2019.

Members agreed that MIAC should reconstitute the MHSWG with tripartite membership, as discussed at the December 2018 meeting of the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health.

8. Significant incident reports

Members discussed Significant Incident Report Numbers 269 and 270. There was general consensus that the reports are useful to improve workplace safety awareness.

9. Mines Safety statistics

The agenda item sought member feedback on the graphs and mines safety statistics reports, indicating data trends in relation to: FTEs, employment trends by commodity plus exploration and company plus contractor employment trends.

Members expressed interest in DMIRS providing safety related statistics, such as data on workplace bullying and harassment issues, near-misses and frequency rates.

There was discussion regarding the dip in the monthly full time employment of mining contractors in the mining and exploration sector during December and January each year. It was noted that mining contractors seemed to have better safety performance statistics than owner-operated mining companies.

10. Towards 2020 commitments

The Chair presented to members regarding progress of the Mine Safety Directorate's *Towards 2020 Commitments*. Members supported the DMIRS' webpage guidance on Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP). Following member discussion, it was agreed that web hyperlinks to all DMIRS safety alerts relating to elevating work platforms should be listed on the webpage for MEWPs.

11. Next meeting: 13 February 2019

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