

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 13 February 2019
Mining Industry Advisory Committee meeting

1. Introduction from the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner

Mr Darren Kavanagh the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner (Commissioner) introduced himself to MIAC members, who then introduced themselves. The Commissioner spoke about his background and aspirations, following his appointment.

Mr Kavanagh advised that his position reports directly to the Minister and being independent from the department, presents opportunities for innovation and broader networking, as well as collaboration with DMIRS. He discussed key priorities, including:

- furthering the independent role of the Commissioner and setting up a relationship with DMIRS;
- building relationships with key stakeholders, continuing to establish networks and maintaining frequent communication;
- work on mental health, recognising the importance of materials to properly manage this significant topic, the FIFO Code being a good start;
- investing work on health hazards in the workplace; and
- culture in the workplace, its effects and how it influences safety.

2. Noise exposure and hearing loss

Ms Lindy Nield, Acting Team Leader – Inspector of Mines DMIRS, gave a presentation about hygiene data gathered by DMIRS. She explained that exceedance questions have been added to the Safety Regulation System (SRS) and that DMIRS has analysed the responses received.

There was discussion regarding health monitoring, personal protective equipment (PPE) use, contractors, workers who change jobs, phrasing of the exceedance questions in SRS and health and hygiene management plan requirements.

The presentation generated interest from members, especially in relation to engineering controls, responsibility for correct use of PPE, the accuracy of the data and approaches to enforce existing legislation.

3. Draft Fly-in Fly-out (FIFO) Code of Practice

The Chair introduced Ms Amy Douglas-Martens, Inspector of Mines - Mental Health and Wellbeing DMIRS, to provide background and context to the *Code of Practice – Mentally healthy workplaces for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers in the resources and construction sectors* (Code).

Ms Douglas-Martens explained the intent of the Code, from a psychologist's perspective. She explained that the Code includes exactly the same risk management processes used for physical health and safety hazards. She demonstrated this by way of a diagram, indicating how prevention and intervention strategies can be used to reduce and remove exposure to psychosocial hazards.

Ms Douglas-Martens advised that the findings of research into the impacts of FIFO work on mental health were considered and are reflected in the content of the Code.

There was discussion amongst members and MIAC endorsed the Code, subject to minor amendments, to be agreed out of session.

4. Work Health and Safety legislation reforms

The Chair informed members that the Commission's Legislative Advisory Committee (LAC) is currently reviewing the draft consultation package for the WHS (Mines) Regulations, WHS (Petroleum) Regulations and General WHS Regulations.

He explained that there are different formats and approaches across the three consultation documents. This is because the three sets of regulations were progressed through different processes.

The Chair informed members that the public consultation process for the three sets of regulations is expected to commence in April or May 2019.

5. Mental Health Strategies Working Group

The Chair reminded members that a decision was made at the December 2018 MIAC and Commission meetings, to reconstitute the MHSWG with a smaller tripartite membership. He asked members to discuss and agree on updated membership of the MHSWG, so that a meeting could be organised.

Members agreed that the reformed MHSWG membership would consist of:

- Chair – Ms Christina Folley, Regional Inspector of Mines, DMIRS;
- two industry representatives (one from AMEC and one from CMEWA);
- two unions representatives (UnionsWA);
- two government representatives (not including the Chair); and
- experts as required, based on the content of each meeting.

6. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group (nDPMWG)

The Chair referred MIAC to the updated agenda paper, which provided a summary of the 17 January 2019 nDPMWG meeting. He explained the finalisation and approval process for the research report. The report should be ready to come to the 10 April 2019 MIAC meeting.

A communication plan is being developed jointly by the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia and DMIRS, to make the research findings public. This communication plan will come to MIAC for approval, prior to the release of the information.

Arrangements are being made to present the research findings to the workers who participated in the studies. This is being undertaken by the researchers and companies involved in the research.

7. Significant incident reports

Members discussed Significant Incident Report Numbers 271 and 272.

8. Mines Safety statistics

Members discussed the data provided, which consisted of a bi-monthly mines safety data report, a safety performance poster for 2017-18, a quarterly performance snapshot, the monthly safety and health snapshot for September 2018 and quarterly activity indicators for Mines Safety.

The Chair advised MIAC that the first issue of DMIRS' new workplace safety and health publication, *ThinkSafe* online magazine, was published in January 2019. He informed members that they can subscribe to *ThinkSafe* for future issues and can also register to receive Resources Safety alerts.

9. Towards 2020 Commitments

The Chair advised that, as requested by MIAC, relevant safety alerts have been added to the Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) page on the DMIRS website. He also noted that the January edition of *ThinkSafe* magazine included an article about MEWPs.

The Chair provided updates on:

- the working in remote areas project;
- progress towards introducing harmonised WHS laws;
- enhancements to SRS, including health and hygiene management plans and industry reporting; and
- human and organisational factors guidance materials.

There was discussion regarding contractor access to guidance and alerts, as well as investigation methodology.

A member suggested that the noise exposure project, reported on at item 3.2, should be added to the health and hygiene topics reported to MIAC through the Towards 2020 Commitments presentation.

10. Next meeting: 10 April 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