

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mining Industry Advisory Committee Meeting on 13 October 2016

1. Working Groups' Terms of Reference

Members endorsed the terms of reference as presented for:

- the Mental Health Strategies Working Group; and
- the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group.

2. Risk-Based Occupational Hygiene

Risk-Based Hygiene Management Plans (RBHMPs) continue to be implemented. SRS Health and Hygiene Management system is being developed to replace the CONTAM system.

Members requested information on the number of mine sites with RBHMPs and the changes undertaken, as well as feedback from the SRS Health and Hygiene Management system stakeholder workshop.

3. Draft *Work Health and Safety (Resources and Major Hazards) Bill*

The drafting process for the Work Health and Safety (Resources and Major Hazards) Bill is continuing. Once available, the final draft will be published on the DMP website for a three-month public comment period.

Members noted that further progression and timing of the legislation is dependent on Government decisions following the State election.

4. Report from Mental Health Strategies Working Group

Members noted the Mental Health Strategies Working Group's progress report and FIFO Inquiry Action Plan.

Working group members have contributed to the Action Plan, that addresses applicable recommendations from the Education and Health Standing Committee Report, *The impact of FIFO work practices on mental health*.

To avoid duplication, the Working Group is researching what work is being done in Australia, and by whom, to alleviate mental health problems in industry.

5. Significant Incident Reports

Members noted the four Significant Incident Reports published since the last meeting, and expressed concern that these appear to be re-occurrences of previous accidents. The Chair confirmed that the accidents follow trends displayed in the DMP Hazard Register.

6. Mine Safety Statistics

Members noted the mines safety statistics and requested that mining data be split further, between mine operators and contractors, if possible. Members also noted the downward trend in the Serious Reportable Injury Incidence Rate for exploration over the last few years.

7. Project Register

Tables listing the number of fatalities since the year 2000 were compared with MIAC's Project register. Members requested that the number of serious injuries be added to the tables and requested that DMP provide the top 10 items on the DMP Risk Register for comparison with the MIAC Project Register.

As DMP's *Working in isolated areas – guideline* will not be published before the start of summer exploration activities, current guidance material on the DMP website covering working in remote areas will be publicised using Resources Safety's *Safety Alerts*.

Once the proposed Work Health and Safety (Resources and Major Hazards) legislation is developed, codes of practice and other guidance material may be adapted for Western Australia, such as the NSW *Safety management systems in mines – Code of Practice*, which includes details of Principal Hazard Management Plans.

8. Other Business

Coal miners' pneumoconiosis (black lung)

Members noted recent reports on the first diagnosed case of black lung in a Queensland coal miner who worked exclusively above ground. WA has two coal mines, both open pit.

The Chair reiterated the Department's stance that workers should not be exposed to hazardous atmospheres. DMP uses its CONTAM system to collect data on workers' exposure to airborne contaminants, including exposure to diesel particulate matter, and will develop programs in consultation with industry to mitigate those exposures.

Deloitte report

The Deloitte report into DMP's Mine Safety Branch is nearing completion, and will be published on the DMP website in late 2016.

Policies and procedures

Given recent court cases involving another Government Department which did not follow its own policies and procedures, the Chair advised that DMP will follow its policies and procedures. To reinforce this, the *Mine Safety and Inspection Act 1994* clearly defines the legal hierarchy of legislation, Codes of Practice, Guidelines and other guidance material.

Ventilation Code of Practice

Comments and feedback to the Ventilation Code of Practice are being collated and necessary amendments are being made. Members agreed that the code should cover ventilation to enclosed areas, including underground locations and workshops.

DMP agreed to organise a stakeholder forum to discuss concerns and the regulator's expectations. The Code will be presented to MIAC for endorsement in 2017.

9. Next meeting: 8 December 2016

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

Simon Ridge

Chair