

Members present:	Mr Simon Ridge (Chair) Mr Simon Bennison Mr Andrew Chaplyn Mr Chris Davis Ms Adrienne LaBombard Ms Peta Libby Mr Stephen Price Mr Martin Ralph Mr Rob Watson Mr Gary Wood	Government member Industry member Government member Expert member Industry member Expert member Union member Expert member Industry member Union member
Attendees	Ms Teresa Williams (For Agenda Item 3.0) Dr Su Ho (For Agenda Items 4.0 and 5.1)	Department of Mines and Petroleum Department of Mines and Petroleum
Executive officer:	Mr Doug Brown	Department of Mines and Petroleum

Meeting Business	Decision/Action
1.0 ADMINISTRATION	
1.1 Opening – 8:04am	
The Chair opened the meeting advising members that proceedings will be recorded for minute taking purposes with the recording being erased once the minutes are confirmed.	
1.2 Apologies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Glenn McLaren Union member • Mr Greg Stagbouer Expert member 	Apologies noted.
1.3 Confirmation of meeting agenda	Agenda confirmed.
1.4 Declarations of conflict of interest with agenda items	No conflicts of interest were declared.
1.5 Confirmation of the meeting minutes of 13 August 2015	Minutes confirmed.
1.6 Other business	See Agenda Item 11.0.
2.0 ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF 13 AUGUST 2015	
2.1 Action Point One	
<i>Mine safety statistics - The Department is to revise the statistics being provided to MIAC. (Add serious injury rates to the statistics provided to MIAC.)</i>	See Agenda Item 10.0.
Considered under Agenda Item 10.0.	

2.2	<p>Action Point Two <u>Code of practice – Safe autonomous mining in Western Australia</u></p> <p>2a) <i>Separate guidance material to be developed for equipment operated remotely.</i></p> <p>The Department will develop separate guidance material as requested (see 2c below).</p> <p>2b) <i>The draft code to include a statement clarifying its scope.</i></p> <p>A clarification statement explaining the scope of the code has been inserted in its Foreword.</p> <p>2c) <i>Mr Price to report back to the Executive Officer after conferring with Mr Wood.</i></p> <p>Mr Wood emailed his endorsement of the Code and requested that a separate code of practice and guidelines be developed for equipment operated remotely (see 2a).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
2.3	<p>Action Point Three <i>The Department is to draft an operational plan for consideration by MIAC.</i></p> <p>Considered under Agenda Item 8.0.</p>	<p>See Agenda Item 8.0.</p>
2.4	<p>Action Point Four <i>Mines safety statistics - The Department to amend the statistical data as requested. (Remove outdated historical material.)</i></p> <p>Considered under Agenda Item 10.0.</p>	<p>See Agenda Item 10.0.</p>
2.5	<p>Action Point Five <i>Next meeting - Send alternative meeting dates to members.</i></p> <p>Alternative dates sent to members.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
3.0	<p>MINE SAFETY AND INSPECTION LEVY AND SAFETY DATA AUDITING</p> <p>Ms Williams joined the meeting and spoke to her paper on amendments to the mine safety levy regulations. Discussion followed on the Risk Management Approach outlined in the paper relating to the level of compliance of operators.</p> <p>Members were briefed on a new departmental policy allowing for a measure of tolerance in the number of hours worked reported by operators. It is anticipated the policy will alleviate the administrative burden of the need to calculate the exact number of working hours to determine the size of the mine safety levy to be paid. The meeting was told the single biggest issue encountered by many operators is how to deal correctly with travelling hours in Fly-In-Fly-Out working arrangements.</p> <p>The Chair concluded discussion advising that the whole levy arrangement will need to be reviewed at some point in the future in light of the proposed resources safety legislation. Mining levies will be regulated by a separate piece of legislation as is the case currently.</p> <p>Ms Williams concluded her summary of the paper by speaking of how the Department's mine safety levy auditors have been given 'special inspector' status under the regulations. Members agreed that the revised scope of the auditors be circulated to industry. This will be done in the next issue of <i>Resources Safety Matters</i> magazine.</p> <p><i>[Ms Williams departed the meeting.]</i></p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Action Item One An article to be placed in the next issue of the <i>Resources Safety Matters</i> magazine on the revised scope of the mine levy auditors.</p>

4.0 GUIDELINE FOR ENDORSEMENT – ISOLATION OF HAZARDOUS ENERGIES ASSOCIATED WITH PLANT IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MINING OPERATIONS

Dr Ho joined the meeting to speak to this item where endorsement for the draft guideline was sought. Members were informed of the extensive consultation conducted in the development of the guideline and the interest it generated at 'safety road shows'.

Members were told that the guideline is based on best practice principles. A member spoke about a comment received from a drilling contractor describing the draft guideline as 'generic' which is in keeping with the nature of the draft document.

For members' information, Dr Ho handed out copies of a spreadsheet listing current codes of practice and guidelines being proposed or in the process of being drafted. The Chair also distributed a list of Tri-state mining codes of practice for members' information.

Discussion followed on how MIAC will deal with the number of codes of practice arising out of the Tri-State and national level once the new resources safety legislation comes into effect.

Industry spoke about the need for MIAC to have a strategic focus for dealing with national mining codes tabled for endorsement in Western Australia. It was agreed that a process needs to be developed to assist MIAC determine if an issue warrants a guideline or a code.

5.0 ACTION REGISTER

5.1) Review of existing issues

a) Working in Isolated Areas – Guidance material

Dr Ho gave an overview of actions taken by the Department to progress the proposed guidance material. Members agreed that in the first instance, they are to provide comments to Dr Ho on the scope and contents of the guidance material. Members agreed that the draft document needs to contain clear definitions of 'remote' and 'isolated'.

The Department will also invite comments from industry stakeholders which will be incorporated into a final draft document by a tripartite working party.

[Dr Ho departed the meeting.]

b) Principal Hazard Management Plans (PHMP)

Industry suggested MIAC promote alignment in terminology used in the area of risk management. It cited the *Critical Control Management* publication produced by the International Council on Mines and Mining (ICMM) as a good example of recognised terminology.

Discussion followed on the benefits of operators and jurisdictions adopting common definitions and terminology when describing risk management methodology.

Industry suggested that consideration should be given to adopting national and international terminology during the development of the proposed resources safety legislation. The Chair advised members that the PHMP requirements in the legislation will only require operators to identify principal hazards and put in place a plan to manage the hazards. It will not define terms to be used leaving the naming of such plans and their methodology to the individual operator.

The draft guideline was endorsed by members.

Action Point Two
Electronic copies of the two lists to be circulated to members.

Action Point Three
MIAC with the assistance of the Department to develop a process to schedule and vet external documents presented to it for endorsement.

Noted.

Action Point Four
Members are to provide Dr Ho with comments as to the scope and content of the proposed guideline.

Noted.

Mention was made of glossary of safety related terms being released by Safe Work Australia along with that released by its equivalent in New Zealand. It was also noted the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention (IFAP) has produced a glossary of safety related terms.

Mr Chaplyn reported that PHMP will be the key topic of the pending Mine Safety Management Systems workshop and where definitions and terminology in risk management will be raised – particularly those used in the ICMM publication. The workshop will also consider the New South Wales guidance material on PHMP as to its suitability for Western Australia.

c) Safety in Design – Collision Avoidance

The Chair informed members that the Department is preparing guidance material covering this topic. Currently a draft publication is in a queue to be re-edited before being submitted to MIAC for endorsement.

d) Tyre Safety Guideline

The Chair informed members the guideline has now been published and is available from the Department's website. It was agreed that no further action is required on this topic and it is to be removed from the Action Register.

Mention was made of a Minerals Council of Australia tyre safety project using the ICMM Critical control Management Guideline.

5.2 NEW ITEM – Parliamentary Enquiry into impact of Fly-In Fly-Out (FIFO) work on mental health.

The Chair spoke on the recommendations arising from the Parliamentary Enquiry into FIFO work to which the Government responded to each. A number of the responses suggested a role for MIAC particularly in assisting with research and a review of existing codes of practice or guidance material with reference to mental health and FIFO work.

Members commented on the timeline of the enquiry and the process which appeared not to take into account MIAC's role as the expert body in mine safety in this State. The Chair informed members that the process undertaken during the enquiry was outside of the Department's control.

[Mr Bennison departed the meeting at this point.]

Industry expressed the view that research should be conducted in the first instance to ascertain if there is evidence to establish linkages between FIFO work and mental health. The research would consist of a 'gap analysis' which is evidence based.

Discussion followed on collection of data on deaths among FIFO workers to assist in the research process. It was noted that difficulties could be encountered in determining if confounding factors played a significant role in a particular death and not just because the deceased was a FIFO worker.

It was agreed that MIAC should write to the Mental Health Commission seeking its views on what research should be undertaken and also invite a representative to the next MIAC meeting to discuss issues arising out of the Enquiry's recommendations.

Industry referred to the publication *Blue Print for Mental Health and Well Being* by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA (CMEWA).

Members suggested that reference be made to the publication in the Department's *Resources Safety Matters* magazine.

Action Point Five

Circulate to members the glossary of terms produced by Safe Work Australia, New Zealand and IFAP.

Noted.

Noted.

Action Point Six

Remove the Tyre Safety Guideline from the Action Register.

Noted.

Action Point Seven

a) The Chair to will write to the Mental Health Commission.

b) Invite a representative the Mental Health Commission to attend the next MIAC meeting.

c) Arrange for the next issue of the *Resources Safety Matters* magazine to mention the CMEWA's publication.

Members agreed the issue of mental health and FIFO work be added to the Action Register.

d) The issue of mental health and FIFO work be added to the Action Register.

5.3 Department of Mines and Petroleum – Mental Health Strategy Template

Industry voiced its concern of a mental health checklist currently displayed on the Department's website. It cited concerns of stakeholders as to the checklist's purpose and mentioned that it was being perceived as being too vague or too prescriptive in parts and that it is not sufficiently flexible to allow for different approaches to addressing mental health in a mining operation. Industry suggested that consultation should have occurred before it was released by the Department.

Noted.

The Chair advised that the purpose of the checklist was to provide operators with a simple tool when developing a mental health plan and that the checklist has no legal standing. Members were invited to make suggestions as to improving this resource. It was agreed that stakeholders would benefit if the publication contained an explanation on how it is to be used.

Action Point Eight
The Department to add an explanation to the checklist.

5.4 NEW ITEM – Underground ventilation and nano Diesel Particulate Matter

Mr Davis gave a presentation on the hazards of nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) in underground mining operations citing research conducted by Emeritus Professor Odwyn Jones contained in a paper titled, "*An update of diesel exhaust pollution in underground mines*". Also cited was the MIAC endorsed guideline titled "*Management of diesel emissions in Western Australian mining operations*" and a paper by J.Daniel Stinnette titled "*Establishing total airflow requirements for underground metal/non-metal mines based on the diesel equipment fleet*".

Noted.

The meeting was told a specific hazard with nDPM is its capacity to bond with molecules of hazardous chemicals which can have serious health effects if breathed into the lungs. The common forms of air filters used by workers are not designed to filter out nDPM and the newer diesel engines are known for producing greater levels of nDPM than their predecessors.

Action Point Nine
a) Add the issue to the Action register

Discussion followed the presentation and it was agreed that most mine ventilations systems in use are not particularly effective against pollution caused by modern diesel engines owing to the high levels of nDPM emitted.

b) The Chair to write to Professor Jones advising of MIAC's support.

It was determined that the issue be added to the Action Register and that the Department will support Professor Jones in any application to the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia for endorsement of a research project into nDPM.

6.0 CURTIN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECT – INFLUENCE OF SAFETY AND HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES IN THE MINING SECTOR

Members were informed of the study being undertaken by Ms Shibani Chakraborti a PhD student at Curtin University. It was agreed she be invited to a MIAC meeting to discuss her findings at the end of the research project.

Noted.

7.0 LETTER FROM CHAIR OF NSW's MINE SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Chair spoke of the letter received from Mr Carl Scully of NSW's Mine Safety Advisory Council proposing the establishment of a formal relationship between the Council and MIAC. Members discussed aspects of the proposal and whether MIAC should enter into such an arrangement.

Noted.

It was agreed that an exchange of agenda, minutes, KPIs and action lists would be appropriate in the first instance. The Chair will reply to Mr Scully's letter as to suggestions for exchange of information.

Action Point Ten
The Chair to write to Mr Scully.

8.0 MIAC'S OPERATIONAL PLAN

Ms Libby spoke to her paper which contained a draft operational plan for MIAC. Members were told the operational plan should consist of measures that indicate MIAC effectiveness as the sector's leading player in workplace safety and health in Western Australia.

Noted.

It was noted that a summary of MIAC's activities is already being provided to the Minister annually on a calendar basis.

Members supported the need for an Operational Plan and agreed that comments should be sent to the Executive Officer prior to the next meeting to be incorporated into an initial draft to be considered at the February 2016 meeting. The main business of that meeting will be to finalise the plan.

Action Point Eleven
Members to provide feedback to the Executive Officer before the next meeting.

9.0 STANDING AGENDA ITEM: WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (RESOURCES) BILL

The Chair gave an overview of progress of the proposed resources safety legislation particularly in relation to timelines. The delay in progress of the general OSH 'Green Bill' was noted and discussed.

Noted.

Members were told the general and resources safety subordinate legislation are almost mutually exclusive apart from a small number of overlapping issues. This is due to the fact that the resources sector operates under a risk management framework and a Safety Management System that requires much less prescription. General industry on the other hand in most cases does not operate under Safety Management Systems and requires a high level of prescription as a result. There are no practical reasons why the resources safety legislation cannot be progressed regardless of the future of the Green Bill.

10.0 STANDING AGENDA ITEM: MINES SAFETY STATISTICS

Members noted the statistics provided which constitute the most recent figures available to the Department. It was agreed that statistics tabled at future MIAC meeting should include an industry sector breakdown for serious injury rates and serious incidence rates per thousand workers. Also requested was historical data on fatalities commencing from the 1940s.

Noted.

Action Point Twelve
The Executive Officer to obtain the statistical data requested and send out of session.

The Chair suggested he will enquire if the Department can create a specific dashboard for MIAC members to allow access to statistical data on a needs basis.

Action Point Thirteen
The Chair to enquire if a dashboard can be created for MIAC members.

11.0 OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Check inspectors in NSW – Lung disease levels reported in Queensland

Mr Wood reported on an issue raised by Check Inspectors in NSW relating to the incidences of 'black lung' being diagnosed in Queensland's coal industry. Problems were found in that State with the reading of mine health x-rays leading to incorrect diagnosis. The Chair spoke about safety and health reforms in the industry leading to a significant reduction in dust related diseases across the mining sector.

Noted.

11.2 Recent fatalities update

Mr Chaplyn gave an update of recent fatalities in the mining sector and briefed members on the circumstances of the incidents. Discussion followed on whether the economic downturn in the mining and exploration sectors affect safety.

Noted.

11.3 Heat and hydration

Ms Libby raised the issue of workers being properly hydrated in situations where heat stress is a hazard. She cited an incident in the Northern Territory where an exploration worker came close to death after not taking electrolytes while drinking a large quantity of plain water.

Noted.

11.4 Sitting fees

Ms Libby suggested that sitting fees available to MIAC members be donated to charity. The Chair advised that sitting fees are taxable and only paid to individuals. It is up to individual members as to the use of their fees.

Noted.

11.5 Mining Emergency Response Competition

Mr Chaplyn reminded members that the annual Mining Emergency Response Competition is to be conducted over the 28th and 29th November weekend.

Noted.

11.6 OSH Professional Capability Framework

Mr Ralph informed members of the release of the above publication which sets national and international competencies levels for safety and health professionals. The document will be made available to members via a web link.

Noted.

**Action Point
Fourteen**
The Executive Officer
to provide members
with the web link.

11.7 Completion of Australia India Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

Mr Ralph advised that the ratification of the above agreement will free up Australia to export uranium to India and the United Arab Emirates. MIAC will need to be prepared for the expansion of the uranium industry should the price of the commodity increase.

Noted.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of MIAC is to take place on 18 February 2016. The venue being Room 603, 6th Floor, 1 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth.

Noted.

13.0 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 11:50am.

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