

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mining Industry Advisory Committee Meeting on 8 December 2016

1. Risk-Based Occupational Hygiene

Members discussed Risk-Based Hygiene Management Plans (RBHMPs). RBHMPs align with current and proposed legislative requirements and data indicates that since being implemented, mine sites are doing more sampling and they are complying with their plans.

Feedback from the workshop on the Safety Regulation System (SRS) Health and Hygiene Management system was positive. The first phase of the system is being developed to replace the current CONTAM system for collecting data on airborne contaminants, such as dust. Later in 2017, DMP will publish quarterly reports from the system on its website.

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

The Work Health and Safety (Resources and Major Hazards) Bill is almost complete. Once available, the final draft will be published on the DMP website for a public comment period.

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

3. Report from Mental Health Strategies Working Group

Members noted the Mental Health Strategies Working Group's progress report.

The Mental Health Commission has committed to provide funding over the next two years for mental health research and it is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2017.

University of Newcastle has also conducted mental health research in the mining sector. They will be invited to present their research at the Working Group's next meeting in January 2017.

The working group focused on mental health training and peer support at their 22 November 2016 meeting. Key items discussed:

- There are many training programs available and there is no need to create new programs.
- The focus should be on making it easy for employers to find appropriate training programs for their needs. The Mentally Health Workplace Alliance and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy are developing tools to assist with this.
- A central repository for mental health information is needed and it was proposed the Mental Health Commission could host that central repository. Organisations can then refer to the central repository rather than duplicate information on their own websites.
- DMP is recruiting an Inspector of Mines – Mental Health and Wellbeing. Duties will include developing mental health strategies and guidance material.
- DMP will soon publish the Psychosocial Harm Audits Report, which includes baseline data on the audits conducted by DMP at mining and petroleum sites.
- Mates in Construction is forming a similar peer support scheme called Mates in Mining, dedicated to the resources industry.

4. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group

Members noted the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) Working Group's progress report.

Some funding has been secured for the research programs, which will investigate nDPM at a mine site. There are two research programs. Medical research will investigate the potential health impacts of nDPM. The second research program will investigate the physical aspects of nDPM, such as the sources, characteristics and behaviour of nDPM in underground mines. Additional funding is being sought for the second program.

DMP will brief CME members in January 2017, to identify a mine to host the research program.

The working group will discuss these matters at their 12 December 2016 meeting.

5. Significant Incident Reports

Members noted Significant Incident Report 249: *Drill offsider run over by tracked vehicle.*

6. Mine Safety Statistics

Members noted the mines safety statistics. It was agreed that DMP should publish a quarterly report on inspectorate activity, including site visits and the number of notices issued.

7. Project Register

Members agreed to consider information on fatality and serious injury trends, DMP's Mine Safety focus areas, as well as codes of practice and guidelines, to assist MIAC with identifying project priorities for 2017.

8. Other Business

Exploration drilling incidents

Members discussed recent serious injuries involving exploration operations and requested that DMP provide additional data on numbers and trends at the next meeting.

Inspector recruitment

Inspectors are employed on performance-based contracts and must reapply for their jobs upon contract expiry. Inspectors not meeting performance targets may not have their contracts renewed. Successful recruitment campaigns have resulted in a large number of good quality applicants.

Ventilation Code of Practice

Following some amendments, this Code of Practice is being released for a second consultation period from 14 December 2016 to 18 January 2017, followed by a stakeholder forum on 23 January.

9. Next meeting: 16 February 2017

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

Simon Ridge

Chair