

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 17 August 2022 meeting

The final meeting of the Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) took place on 17 August 2022. This committee is to be replaced by the Mining and Petroleum Advisory Committee (MAPAC) which is established under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2022* (Schedule 1, Division 4, clause 23). The Chairperson thanked the MIAC members for their dedication and sharing of expertise.

1. Vehicle Roll Over Report

An Inspector of Mines from the Mines Safety Directorate, delivered a presentation titled *Mine Site Vehicle Roll Over / Loss of Control*. Data was analysed for the period 2017 to June 2022 inclusive relating to mining vehicle accidents to determine trends such as the number of reported incidents, the year, vehicle type, environmental conditions and event type. Available narrative descriptions were also reviewed to identify contributing factors. The data was found in an SRS (Safety Regulation System) search using the keywords “vehicle roll over”.

The presentation included the data below:

Year	Roll overs
2017	73
2018	64
2019	90
2020	84
2021	92
2022	26
	*note that this is for Jan-Jun 2022 period

Of the 429 roll overs above, road train incidents were the most frequent (174) followed by light vehicles/light trucks (138), with less incidents for vehicles such as dozers, loaders and excavators. Across the 429 incidents, a small number resulted in lost time injuries and there were no fatalities.

Contributing factors included:

- inattention
- fatigue
- exceed vehicle/trailer centre of gravity
- failure to adhere to load plans
- failure to identify/assess hazards (batter edges, buried materials, soft ground, slippery conditions)
- lack of leadership oversight and enforcement of standards
- excessive speed while navigating corners
- limited driver experience
- poor driver training programs
- fatigue/poor rest plans.

Of these, the main contributing factors for 429 vehicle roll overs were:

- speed (23%)
- loss of concentration/inattention (20%)
- centre of gravity exceedance (19%)
- unsafe conditions including ground conditions (16%).

The DMIRS website provides guidance for traffic management such as:

- traffic management plans
- working with or near large mobile plant
- pedestrians
- speed management
- encouraging compliance
- signage.

Training regarding factors that affect vehicle stability is important, with an emphasis on vehicle centre of gravity; the height of a vehicle's centre of gravity and the length of the wheelbase determine the vehicle's stability. Load security and the radius of curves and slopes of roadways are also important to vehicle stability.

Preventive measures include:

- camera monitoring systems
- electronic stability control

- review of vehicle selection to improve/reduce centre of gravity
- risk assessments for all vehicle types
- ensuring awareness of vehicle routes and the associated hazards
- appropriate training
- reducing contact of vehicles with windrows and bunds
- compliance with the requirements of the WHS (Mines) legislation.

The Mines Safety Directorate has almost completed a review of the Traffic Management Audit to ensure it aligns with the Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022. Changes include alignment to the Mine Safety Management System (reg. 622), Principal Hazard Management Plans (reg. 628), Movement of Plant (reg. 631) and Schedule 19 Clause 4 (roads and other areas where mobile plant operate).

2. Gender statistics

Data relating to injuries to males and females in the mining sector was presented. For the period January 2021 to June 2022 inclusive, 81% of 'lost time injuries' were for males compared to 19% for females. For this same period, 84% of 'restricted work injuries' were for males compared to 16% for females.

The Mines Safety Directorate does not capture gender specific data in terms of total hours worked in the mining industry, and therefore the rate of injuries to females in the mining sector proportionate to total hours worked cannot be provided or compared to the rate for males.

Data relating to compliants received from the mining sector for the period January 2021 to June 2022 inclusive was also presented, showing most compliants were categorised as 'health and safety'. Much fewer complaints were received relating to 'alleged bullying' or 'other'. The Chair informed members that different subtypes of complaints will be created in SRS to more accurately reflect the nature of the complaint.

3. Codes of Practice

A union representative felt that the *Working Hours* code is a high priority as it ties into mental health and affects other codes. This code has been reviewed by the Work Health and Safety Commission with feedback provided to DMIRS. It will be presented to the first meeting of the MAPAC for review.

An employer representative raised the matter of the interaction of the *Mentally health workplaces for fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers in the resources and construction sector* code ('FIFO Code') with the psychosocial codes as they do not completely align. It was agreed that review of the FIFO Code is urgent and will be presented to the first meeting of the MAPAC.

Members agreed that the following eight mining-related codes will not be ranked in any order but will be prioritised for review:

- Emergency management for WA mines
- Ground control for WA mining operations
- Mine survey
- Mineral exploration drilling
- Safe mobile autonomous mining in WA
- Surface rock support for underground mines
- Tailings storage facilities in WA
- Underground ventilation.

4. Mines safety directorate : Upcoming events 2022

Safe Work Month will be in October with the theme “WHS – think physical, think psychological”, with details published on the WorkSafe WA website. There will be resources available such as podcasts, videos and presentations.

The finalists in the Work Health and Safety Excellence Awards have been announced. Seventy-seven submissions were received, from which 36 finalists were selected. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on 28 October 2022.

A series of events regarding Mine Safety Management Systems (MSMSs) for small-medium mines have just been held in Perth, Bunbury and Geraldton. Other bespoke events have taken place and there is demand for Inspectors to speak at many future events. Content for smaller mines regarding MSMSs has been circulated. The MSD will be working with AMEC to develop a “toolbox” of resources for smaller miners similar to the former ‘glove-box’ guide.

5. MARS Program Update

An update on the MARS (Mental Awareness Respect and Safety) Program was presented. The MARS Program has three focus areas:

- creating mentally healthy workplaces;
- building a culture of safety and respect; and
- preparing for workplace safety in the future mine.

This is not just a DMIRS program, although DMIRS has a leadership role. The other agencies involved are the Mental Health Commission, Department of Communities and the Equal Opportunity Commission.

Phase 1 has begun:

- Landmark Study by The Centre for Transformative Work Design - the data will be used to inform the MARS Program;

- DMIRS Regulatory Capability Review – this review by Price Waterhouse Coopers is looking at Worksafe and the MSD and policies and procedures for responding to incidents of sexual harassment and assault; the report will be available later this year with recommendations to help improve regulatory response;
- communities-led initiative *Respect in Mining* - focused on building a culture of safety and respect within organisations; the pilot program will be rolled out later this year by 4-5 companies;
- Mental Health Commission-led initiatives – *Thrive at Work* in Mining Masterclass series and *This Mining Life* training and tools; and
- Mentally Healthy Workplaces Grant Program – funding initiatives that provide support.

Phase 2 involves:

- targeting the future workforce - professional level, TAFE sector, high school students;
- supporting women in the mining sector - includes implementing accepted recommendations of the *Enough is Enough* report;
- ensuring all industry players have equal access to information and support; and
- addressing emerging safety risks and fostering innovation.

Future workers will also be targeted. It is planned to create a professorial chair at a university in Western Australia. It will create a central point for training future professionals going into the mining industry. The MARS Program also plans to influence apprentices and trainees through the TAFE system.

High school students will be targeted, possibly through Worksafe's SafetyLine Institute that provides learning guides and associated readings and resources to help learners at workplaces develop competencies in work health and safety. Another option is WorkSafe Smart Move which is an online educational program for senior high school students, young workers entering the workforce on work placement, work experience or as school-based trainee/apprentice and new workers entering the workforce for the first time.

An employer body representative noted that there is no accreditation unit for sexual harassment. There is work being done at a national level regarding the creation of a unit.