Resources Safety
Towards leading practice safety regulation
The Department of Mines and Petroleum’s Resources Safety Division is the primary safety regulator for the mining, petroleum and geothermal and dangerous goods industries in Western Australia.

The Western Australian Government is committed to overhauling the way safety and health in the resources and dangerous goods industries are regulated. This commitment responds to increased demands brought on by community expectations of improved safety and growth in the resources industry.

The Government’s vision is for Resources Safety to be a leading practice safety regulator. The Department has implemented a comprehensive strategy for Reform and Development at Resources Safety (RADARS) to achieve this through progressive improvements in:

- Legislation
- Capacity
- Competency.

Resources Safety is working with industry to create an environment in which resilient safety cultures are the norm, and companies, workers and the wider community are confident that industry is operating as safely as possible.
Vision for leading practice safety regulation

- Proactive, risk management approach
- Data-driven decision making
- Less prescription where possible
- Improved transparency
- Nationally recognised competency

Vision for positive cultural change in industry

**Resources Safety champions resilient safety cultures**

- Flexibility of operation
- Reform rather than repair
- Actively seek new ideas
- Messengers rewarded
- Consistent mindset = ‘wariness’
- Strive for resilience of systems
- Failures prompt far-reaching inquiries
- Responsibility shared
- Proactive as well as reactive

Legislation
Safety reform components

Legislation

Resources Safety is committed to ongoing reform and enhancement of the legislation it administers, and contributing positively to national legislative reform measures.

Systems and business controls

Resources Safety is progressively implementing a fully integrated suite of on-line systems to streamline the administration of licensing, reporting and other regulatory functions. These systems are supplemented by strict internal governance and quality management systems.

People

Resources Safety offers challenging and interesting work, attractive working conditions and salaries to its professional staff. It has rigorous staff selection processes backed up by comprehensive and competency based training and development program to provide the skills, knowledge, qualifications and professional development necessary for consistent delivery of high quality regulatory services.

Stakeholder liaison

A number of formal and informal stakeholder liaison systems have been developed and it is intended to progressively broaden and strengthen these over time to ensure Resources Safety can improve its performance drawing guidance and assistance from its industry partners.
What does safety regulation involve?

This shows the four elements of safety regulation development.

- The legislation sets out the duties and obligations on the regulator and the regulated
- This is supplemented and enhanced through a range of supporting guidance and education
- Compliance is then checked
- Failures are reported and investigated and corrective actions developed
- The legislation is enhanced in response to accumulated experience
Achieving safety compliance

- The risk profile of the operation or activity is determined
- A strategy is established to deal with identified risks
- Awareness is generated
- Targets and work plans are established
- Training and information is provided to staff
- Enforcement action is taken if needed
- Effectiveness of compliance strategy determined by monitoring changes in risk profiles
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