

'Step Up: 2005 Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate' OHS Conference 2005

'Step Up: 2005 Collaborate, Innovate, Elevate' is the theme for the annual OHS Mining Industry Conference to be held 15–18 May 2005 at the Peppers Fairmount Resort in the Blue Mountains. In the past the conference has brought together around 350 delegates from mining companies, employee groups, contractors, government, OHS specialists and universities. This year's numbers are expected to be even higher.

The 2005 Conference sees an exceptional line up of speakers, panels and workshops, with something for everybody. There will also be optional sporting and entertainment activities which will provide great networking opportunities for delegates.

include 'Human Error' and 'Managing the Risks of Organisational Accidents' which are considered compulsory reading for all engineers working in hazardous industries.

Other notable speakers include Kerry O'Keefe, who will be speaking at the innovation awards dinner, and Maxine McKew who will facilitate a panel discussion on 'the role of penalties in improving safety'.

A very high standard of papers has been received for the conference and the schedule is well and truly full with suitable and interesting options for every delegate.

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James Reason, who will be facilitating a workshop at the OHS Mining Industry Conference 2005.

James Reason

Of special note is the attendance of Dr James Reason, who was Professor of Psychology at the University of Manchester from 1977–2001 and is now the managing director of Mentaksis Consulting Limited.

James will be facilitating a workshop on the last day of the Conference.

He is widely considered one of the world's leading experts on safety and has worked extensively for the last 25 years in the area of human error and the way people and organisational processes contribute to the breakdown of complex, well-engineered technologies. His work has focused on many areas including the mining industry, commercial aviation, nuclear power generation, process plants, railways and healthcare institutions. James's books

Official Opening of the Minerals Head Office at Maitland

The Maitland head office of DPI Minerals was opened on the 16th of February 2005 by the NSW Premier, Bob Carr. The office represents a \$35 million investment in the Hunter Region by the State Government. The office was built on time and on budget, which ensured that services from DPI Minerals were able to be maintained at a very high standard for all customers and stakeholders. Mr Carr was joined at the opening by the Minister for Mineral Resources, Kerry Hickey.



The Hon. Bob Carr and The Hon. Kerry Hickey.





The New South Wales Government is targeting improved safety in all sectors of the mining industry.

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Editors please note: any articles in this issue of NSW Mine Safety Update can be reproduced with suitable acknowledgment of their source.

Information is provided in this newsletter to promote the enhancement of the safety culture of NSW mining and to alert a wide range of people to potential risks and to potential risk controls. Each site must manage its own risks according to its own hazard identification, risk assessment, control systems and monitoring process. Whereas all care is taken in producing NSW Mine Safety Update, NSW Department of Primary Industries accepts no responsibility for accuracy of information supplied. Inclusion of any product, service or company in NSW Mine Safety Update does not imply NSW Government or NSW Department of Primary Industries endorsement.

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Opal Miner Grateful for Safety Device

A long-term opal miner recently reported a potentially dangerous incident to the Lightning Ridge DPI Minerals office. The miner had been on the Mine Safety Awareness course run in January/February 2005. At the time the miner had questioned the value of the Course and wasn't convinced about the merits of attending. However, after attending the course the miner chose to fit an electrical residual current device, an RCD, at his mining operations. The miner later said that he did not know about RCDs prior to the course.

Not long after, the miner was working underground installing a new electric bogger which he was using in his claim. He pulled the wrong lever and the machine cut through the electrical wiring, the current was immediately turned off by the RCD. The miner

believed he would have suffered serious electric shock injury or worse if he had not fitted the RCD device. The miner came and thanked the course coordinators after he realised the ramifications of what could have happened.

The Mine Safety Awareness Course is a day and a half course, held in both Lightning Ridge and Grawin. It is designed to raise safety awareness and standards and covers subjects including ground support, ventilation, electricity and mine planning. Attendance at this course is a mandatory qualification for any person wishing to hold a mineral claim in the Lightning Ridge area by the end of June 2005. The cost of the course is \$110. To book phone (02) 682 90678. These courses have been held over the past 11 years and the 4,000th participant completed the course towards the end of 2004.

RCDs are electrical residual current devices or safety switches which are designed to trip off an electricity supply in the event of a current flow to earth. RCDs are mandatory in many work place situations. ■■

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Innovation Awards

The conference will also encompass the NSW Minerals Council OHS Innovation Awards which have been running for over a decade. The awards aim to recognise creative and practical solutions to health and safety problems, and promote their application across the NSW minerals industry.

The NSW Minerals Council will be coordinating the 2005 Conference. For more information visit the NSW Minerals Council web site on www.nswmin.com.au or phone Hat Trick Events on (02) 9816 1213. ■■

Would you like to receive Safety Alerts by email?

Send your details including name, company, phone and email to:
safetyalert@minerals.nsw.gov.au

Your ideas for DPI Website

Help shape the new NSW DPI website. Find out more at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/referencegroup

Committees working on the update of Guidelines for the Use of Remote Controlled Mining Equipment (MDG 5002)

Since the development of MDG 5002 'Guidelines for the Use of Remote Controlled Mining Equipment', in 1998, there has been a considerable change in remote control technology, equipment and practices. Accordingly, the Remote Controlled Equipment Advisory Group (RCEAG) established a working group during 2003 to review and update MDG 5002 to reflect these changes. Two subcommittees were formed to develop new coal and metalliferous guidelines.



Members of the metalliferous remote control working group at the workshop in Parkes. From left, Neil May from Mineral Hill, Geoff Stapylton (standing) from Northparkes, Tony Edwards from Perilya, Kerry Webb from Cavpower, Steve Rowe from Endeavor, Robert Jay from DPI, Tas Dukeson from CSA and Con Panidis from Ridgeway.

The metalliferous committee has representatives from all underground metalliferous mines in NSW which use remote controlled equipment. Equipment suppliers and maintenance personnel are also involved in the review. Three workshops were held last year by the committee, two in Cobar and one in Parkes. The workshops used a risk management approach to identify, assess, prioritise and determine effective controls for the major hazards associated with the use of remote controlled equipment.

The results from the workshops have been used to develop a draft copy of the guideline. The workshop participants have been extremely pro-active during the review process with some already implementing new standards and procedures at their mines. Another benefit has been the opportunity to network and share other safety information between group members to continually improve their site safety systems.

The coal working group has also produced a draft guideline and both drafts were reviewed at the RCEAG meeting in February 2005. ■■■

2004 MINE SAFETY REVIEW PROGRESS

Late last year the Minister for Mineral Resources Kerry Hickey MP announced a Review of Mine Safety to be headed by the former Premier, Neville Wran AC QC, assisted by Jan McClelland, former Director-General of the Department of Education and Training and with three expert advisors assisting.

A number of site visits were undertaken and written submissions were sought. In addition to the submissions, formal presentations were made by a number of parties.

The report on the Review has been completed and was forwarded to the Minister on 17 March 2005. It is now being considered by the Minister.

Mine Safety Review Contact:
Garth Holmes, telephone
(02) 8289 3921. ■■■

NEW VENUE FOR MINING & ENERGY EXHIBITION

The three-day Mining Energy Exhibition will return on 20 September, 2005 to the Hunter Valley at a new venue; the Muswellbrook Showgrounds. Event organiser Reed Exhibitions believes Muswellbrook is the ideal location at the heart of the thriving mining, engineering and power generation industries of the Upper Hunter Valley.

Visitors are expected from coal producers and those working at the major power stations and service industries throughout the region.

Mining & Energy (M&E) 2005, 20-22 September, Muswellbrook Showgrounds. For more information or to register visit: www.me.reedexhibitions.com.au or phone: (02) 9422 2563.



Mining & Energy Exhibition 2001 – venue in front of Bayswater Power Station. ■■■

MINING SURVEYOR REGISTRATION – CHANGES AND CONCERNS

Since the commencement of the Surveying Act 2002, the NSW Board of Surveying and Spatial Information (BOSSI) has received 142 applications for registration as a mining surveyor. By way of comparison, typical land surveyor new registrations during this time have been less than 30 per year. Many of these surveyors had been practising as mining surveyors prior to the commencement of the Act under various authorities and jurisdictions.

BOSSI has attempted to accommodate all of those persons who had been practising as mining surveyors prior to the commencement of the Act or those wishing to practice within the spirit of the legislation. A number of these applications have taken a considerable time due to their complexity and the need to document and substantiate all claims.

BOSSI, as part of this transition for mining surveyors, has accepted applicants with either a four year degree in surveying or an associate diploma in surveying as the minimum academic qualification, which, when combined with three years practical experience, is the basis for competence assessment.

BOSSI has engaged industry and other jurisdictions (QLD, WA) in discussions about the future minimum competence standards for registration as mining surveyors and for reciprocity purposes with other states.

There is a common view that a university education should be the future minimum education standing for all registered surveyors (land and mining) to ensure surveyors possess the necessary knowledge which combined with practical experience will deliver competent professionals. This position is

supported by the outcome of the Gretley inquiry where it was recommended that mining surveyors undertake more rigorous training.

BOSSI has determined that from 1 January 2007, the minimum education requirement for registration as a mining surveyor will be a three year degree in surveying from the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) or a four year degree in surveying from either the University of NSW (mining electives available) or the University of Newcastle. Other four year university degrees in surveying will be assessed for equivalence.

The USQ course is the only course available by distance education, and has been recognised by the Surveyors Board of Queensland. It will be promoted as the minimum standard for reciprocity purposes in discussions with WA later this year. The USQ course also offers a number of exemptions for persons

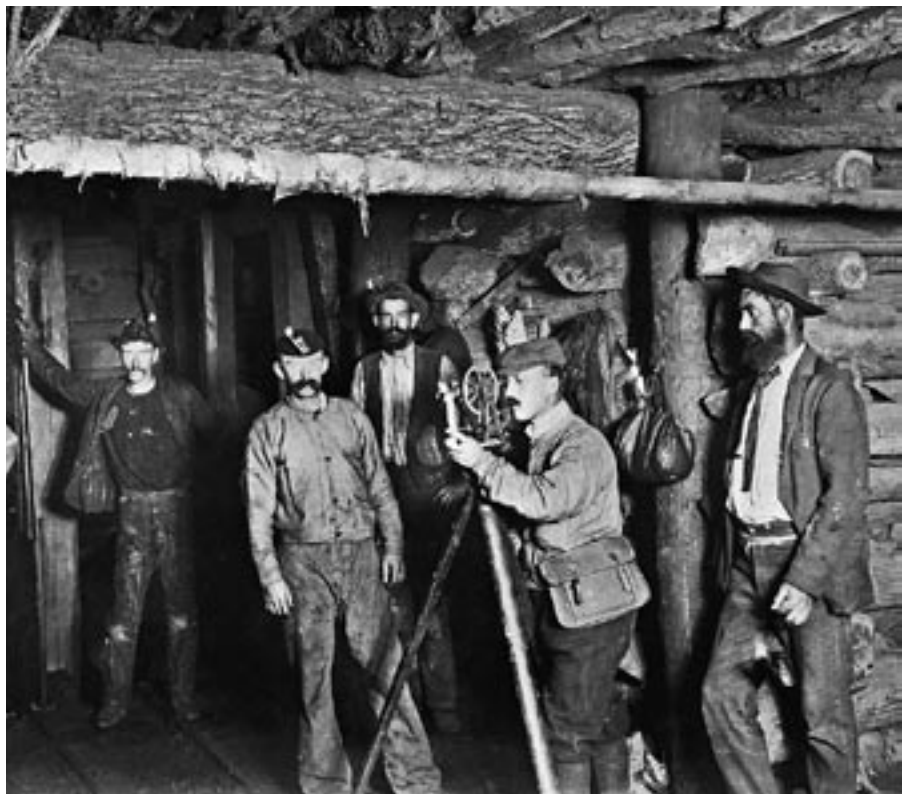
wishing to upgrade from an existing TAFE qualification (as do other universities).

The Board had canvassed the possibility of a specialised degree in mining surveying to establish a new course but there would need to be a guaranteed sustainable number of undergraduates.

Of concern to the Board and industry is the current shortage of registered surveyors, both land and mining. With our aging workforce profile and only 16 candidates on the books to become registered mining surveyors, a collaborative approach is needed to encourage more young people to enter the profession.

The Board is considering an industry summit later this year and would welcome suggestions and ideas on how to increase numbers.

Article prepared by Paul Harcombe, Convenor, BOSSI Land and Mining Surveying Committee. ■■



This picture from the DPI Minerals photo archive exemplifies the long history of surveying and the NSW mining industry. Great Cobar Copper Mine, 1899.

Occupation Health and Safety

SUMMARY: Fatal Accident –Darren Andrew, Perilya Broken Hill Mine 28 November 2002

On 28 November 2002 Mr Darren Andrew sustained fatal head injuries while travelling in a shaft cage underground at the Perilya Broken Hill Mine. The Department's investigation concluded that Mr Andrew was travelling alone in the cage from 23 level to 21 level and as the cage approached the 21 level plat Mr Andrew had apparently placed his head outside the cage door and was struck by the underside of the 21 level plat extension.

The Inquest into the death of Mr Andrew concluded on 10 February 2005 after taking evidence over a period of 15 days. The Inquest was conducted in the presence of a six person jury at the request of the family of the deceased. The Inquest heard evidence about particulars of the deceased, apparent cause of accident, two possible points of impact (impact to the casualty), possible speed of the cage when the casualty was injured, the demeanour of the deceased and other related matters.

The Coroner concluded in summary that:

- The Jury found that Mr Andrew died on 28 November 2002 in the New Broken Hill Consolidated (NBHC) Service Shaft at the Perilya Mine.
- The cause of death was a fractured skull and other injuries.
- These injuries were sustained when his head was struck outside the cage by a protruding object in the shaft area during his ascent from 23 to 21 level.
- At the time of impact the cage was travelling at low speed.

The jury made three recommendations relating to the operation of the mine cage and consultation with union officials.

The recommendations made in the Department's investigation report have been addressed by the mine through a consultative process.

Safety Alert SA05-01, 'Changed Work Practices and Employer Obligations', issued by the Department, recommended as a matter of priority, that all mine sites ensure that when changed work practices are being developed and implemented, that they are properly supported by adequate risk assessments, consultation and training. Further, that employers be aware of their obligations under the OH&S Act with respect to changed work practices on mine sites. The Safety Alert is available on the Department web site www.minerals.nsw.gov.au ■■■

Consultation in the Workplace – a win-win situation

A duty to conduct OHS consultation in the workplace rests with all employers regardless of the size or nature of the organisation. Beyond this requirement, OHS consultation can achieve many positives for the employer and the organisation. Through effective consultation, employers can easily and quickly become more aware of hazards

and risks in the workplace. Meaningful and effective consultation can draw on the experience and ideas of employees and encourage their participation and input to improve the OHS systems in the workplace and help solve problems as they arise.

The NSW Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act 2000 sets out a duty which requires employers to consult with employees about OHS matters so that employees can contribute to decisions affecting their health, safety and welfare. The employer's obligation under Section 14 (b) of the OHS Act states that the nature of consultation requires *'that employees be given the opportunity to express their views and to contribute in a timely fashion to the resolution of occupational health, safety and welfare issues at their place of work'*.

The employer's obligations under Section 15 of the OHS Act outline circumstances when consultation is required. These circumstances include:

- when introducing or altering the procedures for monitoring those risks (including health surveillance procedures);
- when changes that may affect health, safety or welfare are proposed to the premises where persons work, to the systems or methods of work, or to the plant or substances used for work;
- when decisions are made about the procedures for consultation under this Division; and
- other circumstances prescribed by the OHS Act and Regulation.

For more information on the OHS Act, Regulation and OHS Consultation Code of Practice visit the NSW DPI Minerals website www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety and follow the link to 'Safety Legislation'. ■■■

Audit Checklist

A new Audit Checklist for OHS Consultation in the NSW Minerals industry has been prepared to assist industry to fulfil its responsibilities under the State's legislation. The Audit Checklist has been prepared in cooperation with industry and mining unions and targets mine operators, OHS committees, site check inspectors and DPI Minerals staff.

The key objectives of the Audit Checklist include:

- Assessing compliance against legal requirements for consultation on OHS issues.
- Identifying and prioritising actions to improve the effectiveness of OHS consultation arrangements.

The checklist has been initially trialed in each of the three regions. To get a free copy of the Audit Checklist visit the DPI Minerals website on www.minerals.nsw.gov.au and follow the links to Safety Publications. Alternatively, contact your local Minerals office (Mine Safety Operations Branch) and ask for a copy of the Audit Checklist for OHS Consultation for NSW Mines. ■■■

Engineering

Making workplace inspections count

The Armidale office of DPI Minerals has been running on-site mechanical engineering information sessions as part of a planned mine site assessments program.

With the support of management, mine sites have stopped production to allow on-site staff to attend an informal information session focusing on mechanical engineering topics. The information sessions have been designed to address specific topics to ensure relevance to participants. In these sessions, workshops, crib rooms and weighbridges become training rooms for the morning where operators can demonstrate their knowledge of workplace hazards and the application of risk assessment and risk mitigation techniques.

Sessions highlight the importance of conducting workplace inspections to a recognised standard. Although generally of a good standard, inspections can neglect to identify the most basic of hazards purely because of a lack of instruction and training on basic identification of hazards.

At the conclusion of the session all personnel conduct an inspection of their plant in the company of the Mine Safety personnel using their newfound knowledge. Outcomes have included:

- Managers receiving improved workplace inspections, conducted in accordance with recognised standards,
- Managers seeing the benefit of short training/information sessions,
- Improved workplace consultation between managers and operators

So far sessions have included conveyor guarding, lifting equipment & practices and welding & cutting techniques. It is planned that more modules will follow once the first round of mines is completed.

For further information contact your local DPI Minerals office.



Angus McDouall, Inspector of Mines, speaking with staff onsite at the Reedy Creek Quarry. ■■■

Workshops to promote two way communications

Electric shocks are a serious threat to the health and safety of the State's mine workers. To address this issue the Department of Primary Industries Minerals Division holds regular workshops and information seminars for industry. The three most recent workshops, held at Thornton, Londonderry and Cobar, were very well attended.

The workshops covered topics such as electrical incidents in coal mines, legislation, standards, and the introduction of a mine safety operations assessment program.

For more information on upcoming electrical workshops see the Calendar of Events on page 8 or visit the DPI Minerals web site on www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety



Backrow: Rudie Boshoff, Dave Howard, Robert Jay, Graham McCullough, Mathew Corthorn. Front row: John Turner, John Waudby, Geoff Stapylton, Whitney Turner. ■■■

Unplanned movement of remote control machinery – Online information to help mine operators

To assist industry the Remote Control Equipment Advisory Group (RCEAG) has developed a form for the reporting of unplanned movements of remote controlled mining machinery used in underground mines (coal and metalliferous). The form has been endorsed by the Coal Safety Advisory Committee and Metalliferous Industry Advisory Committee and the Extractive Industry Safety Advisory Committee.

To facilitate further improvements in remote control machinery safety, it is important that all unplanned movements, whether or not reportable under the legislation, are investigated and the causes analysed. The form is designed to assist in that endeavour. The Director of Mine Safety encourages all mines to investigate cases of unplanned movement and to complete the form and forward it to RCEAG for analysis.

The form, an example flow chart of how and when to use the form and a letter to industry can be found at www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety and follow the Links to Technical Services > Electrical Engineering > Incidents and Statistics. ■■■

Safety Alerts

SA04-25 Workers injured in fall from elevated work platform

Two mine operators were injured when they fell from an elevated work platform (EWP) at an underground mine. The operators were not seriously injured. The investigation found a number of contributing factors to the accident including that the EWP had been enlarged 300 mm on each end.



Elevated work platform, photo taken after the accident.

SA04-26 Near miss fluid injection

A maintenance technician was attempting to release grease pressure from a crawler track adjuster on an excavator. The technician was struck on the arms, face and chest by pressurised grease. Fortunately there was no injection injury. The incident reinforced the importance of stopping and evaluating risk particularly when investigating the cause of failure.

SA05-01 Changed work practices, employer obligations

Recommendation that all mines sites ensure that when changed work practices are being developed and implemented, that they are properly supported

Mining Electrical and Mining Mechanical Engineers Society (MEMMES) Convention 2005

Shoal Bay Resort, Shoal Bay, NSW (Port Stephens)
24–26 June 2005.

Biennial convention of MEMMES for electrical engineers and mechanical engineers from coal mines, metal mines, service providers, equipment providers and others interested in promoting best electrical and mechanical engineering practice in mines. For more details contact Albert Weekes (02) 4958 6827 or email: sysapprovals@hotmail.com

by adequate risk assessments, consultation and training. Further, that employers be aware of their obligations under the OH&S Act with respect to changed work practices on mine sites.

SA05-02 Unsafe flameproof enclosure – auxiliary fan

An overhauled auxiliary fan was installed in a hazardous zone in a coal mine while the motor terminal enclosure was not properly flameproof. The main enclosure of an auxiliary fan was overhauled by an accredited repair facility. After the fan was delivered and installed underground at the mine, it was found that an unused threaded entry in the motor terminal enclosure had a plastic bung rather than a flameproof blanking element.

MINES RESCUE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & SELF ESCAPE TRAINING AT THORNTON

During February 2005, Officers from the Department's Investigation Unit, Mine Safety Operations, and NSW Police attended a Mines Rescue Emergency Preparedness and Mine Evacuation Course held at the Mines Rescue Station at Singleton. The purpose of the course was to provide Officers with an improved awareness of mines emergency preparedness protocols and the role of Mines Rescue during an emergency response. Training was also provided in the use of various self contained self rescuer systems, compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) and basic fire fighting techniques. The involvement of the NSW Police in the training is essential because the local Police are often first ones on site when a serious accident occurs.



Officers from NSW DPI and NSW Police conducting compressed air breathing apparatus and self rescuer training at Singleton Mines Rescue Station. From L to R Inspector Brian Tracey, NSW Police, Electrical inspector Dennis Spruce, NSW DPI, Investigator Alwyn Piggott, NSW DPI, Det. Senior Constable Matt Delforce, NSW Police, Sen. Investigator Paul Raftery, NSW DPI, Sen. Investigator Tony Smith, NSW DPI.

Calendar of Events

WORK AREA	EVENT	EVENT TYPE	LOCATION/VENUE TIME / DATE	CONTACTS
Mining	Mine Operators' Workshops 2005	Training Seminar. Bookings – see contact for more details.	Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge Workshops held regularly.	David Howell, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 6829 0678
Mining	Safety Awareness Course	Training Seminar. Bookings – see contact for more details.	Lightning Ridge Bowling Club. Courses held regularly.	David Howell, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 6829 0678
Mining	Eastern Australia Ground Control Group Workshop	Workshop. Bookings – see contact for more details.	Orange – May 2005.	John Moss (02) 6392 6333
Electrical & Mechanical	Mining Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Society of the Institution of Engineers, Australia (MEMMES) Convention 2005	Convention (Conference). Bookings – see contact for more details.	Shoal Bay Resort, Shoal Bay, NSW (Port Stephens) 24–26 June 2005.	Albert Weekes (02) 4958 6827 or 0439 486 827
Mechanical	Hunter Valley Underground Mine Mechanical Engineers Meeting	Meeting. Bookings – No charge, see contact for more details.	Quarterly meeting, see contact for more details.	Paul Drain, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 4931 6652
Mechanical	Hunter Valley Opencut Mine Mechanical Engineers Meeting	Meeting. Bookings – No charge, see contact for more details.	Next Meeting – Bengalla Coal Mine. Time and date to be advised (Quarterly meeting).	Matt Willoughby, Mine Safety Officer DPI (02) 6572 1899
Mechanical	Southern & Western Coalfields Mechanical Engineers Meeting	Meeting. Bookings – No charge, see contact for more details.	Location and date to be advised.	Graham Johnston, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 4222 8307
Mechanical	Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar, DPI.	Seminar. Bookings – see contact for more details.	Location – Penrith Panthers, 3 August 2005.	Gordon Jervis, Snr Inspector of Mines Mechanical Engineering (02) 4931 6642 or Tracey Lee Smith (02) 4931 6546
Mechanical	Western NSW (Cobar, Broken Hill) Mine Mechanical Engineers Meeting.	Meeting. Bookings – No Charge – see contact for more details.	Western Region – June 2005.	Bob Johnson, Inspector of Mines, DPI (08) 8088 9322.
Electrical	Hunter Valley Electrical Engineers meeting	Meeting (open) Booking: No charge – see contact for more information.	Held bi-monthly on the first Friday of the month – venues change for each meeting.	Steve Millington, Inspector of Electrical Engineering (02) 6572 1899 or 0409 836 286
Electrical	Southern and Western coalfields Electrical Engineers meeting	Meeting (limited numbers). Booking – Senior electrical engineers limited numbers see contact for more information.	Time to be advised, Londonderry. Last meeting held Thursday 17 February 2005 (held approx. quarterly).	Paul De Gruchy, Mine Safety Officer, Electrical Engineering (02) 4227 1699 or 0417 226 362
Electrical	HIESN (Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network)	Meeting. Booking – see contact for more information.	Meets the first Thursday of each month – venues change.	Peter Henderson, Tomago Aluminium 0408 683 544
Electrical	DPI Annual Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar	Seminar. Bookings – See above contact	To be advised.	John Waudby, Senior Inspector Electrical Engineering, (02) 4931 6641 or 0418 295 656 or Tracey Lee Smith on (02) 4931 6546

For more information go to: www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/upcoming_events

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Phone: (02) 6351 3052, Fax: (02) 6352 3876

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ORANGE

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After hours – emergency only – (02) 6392 6358

SINGLETON

1 Civic Avenue, Coal Services Building,
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