

# Coal Competence Board

John Maitland  
Chairman  
Coal Competence Board



# Role of the Coal Competence Board

- The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the Coal Competence Board, explain its role and raise some issues that the Board will be dealing with.
- The Board has been established to improve mine safety performance by ensuring that people working in the mining industry are competent to work safely. It advises the Minister and oversees the development of health and safety standards and the assessment of competencies.

# Legislation

- Discussion papers (in 2000 and 2002) and an extensive consultation process resulted in the new legislation and the establishment of the Coal Competence Board.
- The Coal Competence Board has been established under the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act and Regulation* which came into effect on 23 December 2006.

## Board Membership: CMHSA 2002 s. 132

John Maitland (Chairperson)

Gavin Taylor and David Mellows  
(representatives of the Minerals Council)

Ian Murray and Keith Shaw (representatives  
of the Union)

John McKendry and Bob Gibbons (people  
who have expertise in the development  
and assessment of competence or people  
performing functions at coal operations)

Rod Morrison and Rob Regan (officers of the  
Department of Primary Industries)

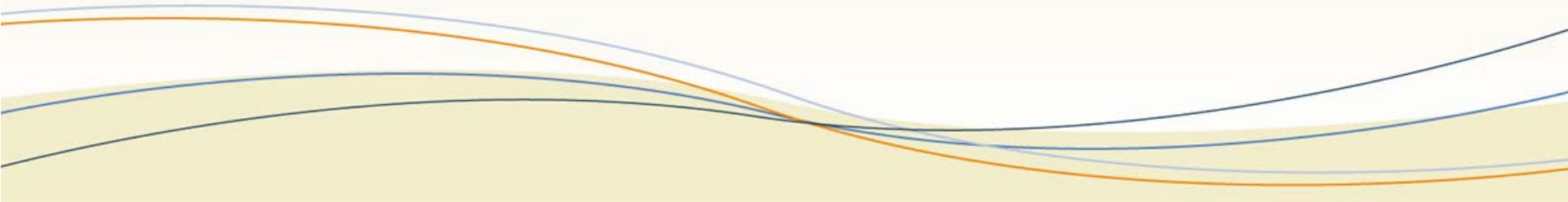
# Board Activities 2007

- The Board has had three meetings and has now mapped out a program of activities for the rest of the year
- The focus is on consultation, information gathering and establishing relationships with stakeholders
- The Board is a credible forum in which mining industry stakeholders can raise and successfully deal with issues relating to competence

# Focus on Consultation

- The Board has written to key stakeholders representing industry, employees, universities, training providers and professional associations seeking formal input about the Board's priorities
- Meetings have been held with the CFMEU, RIISC, MISA and in October with the NSW Minerals Council

# Operation of the Examination Boards

- The existing Examination Boards have continued to operate and now fall under the Coal Competence Board.
  - Processes were set up for examinations to continue and the 2006/2007 examination cycle is well under way. Certificates of Competence continue to be issued to candidates who have been assessed as competent.
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# Significant Issues

The first task for the Board will be to determine its priorities. Some of the key issues which it will consider are:

- The adoption of acceptable competency standards for Certificates of Competency
- Possible additional statutory functions
- The development of a system for the maintenance of competence
- Mutual recognition processes
- The development of strategic partnerships
- The alignment of national training competencies with statutory requirements for Certificates of Competence

# Significant Issues

- Replacement of some written exams with competency based assessment
- A process for examiner and assessor training
- Encourage the development of occupational associations to qualify and recommend (or set) standards for statutory functions
- Consider the priorities for industry to ensure a supply of competent workers based on short supply, safety record and industry feedback on the types of positions required

# Summary

- Consider the priorities for industry to ensure a supply of competent workers
  - Form strategic partnerships
  - Work towards a simplified and consistent national approach
  - Adopt competence arrangements from elsewhere, including other states and industries, wherever it is sensible and relevant to do so
  - The Board is commencing a long term program which will result in people who are competent to work in the industry
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