



# NSW mine safety update

Promoting safety in the NSW mining industry

## New legislative framework for coal mining industry

The NSW coal mining industry is moving to a new and more relevant legislative framework based on risk management principles and consultation.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* and the extended application of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*, along with the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002* and the pending implementation of the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation 2006* will give the coal mining industry the tools to help achieve its goal of improving OHS performance.

The *OHS Act* is the main legislation in NSW dealing with health, safety and welfare at work. The *OHS Act* applies to workplaces in the coal mining industry such as exploration sites, open-cut and underground mines and coal preparation plants.

The *OHS Regulation* supports the *OHS Act* and sets out detailed risk management provisions for general industry. Some provisions in the *OHS Regulation* have always applied to the coal mining industry – mostly dealing with OHS committees and employee consultation. Further provisions in the *OHS Regulation* will be applied to the coal mining industry.

The NSW Government is developing this new legislative framework in consultation with the mining industry and community stakeholders. The public consultation period on the *CMHS Regulation* finished in mid-July and the Government is in the process of making the Regulation and commencing the Act.

The *CMHS Act* and the *CMHS Regulation* affects everybody in the coal mining industry. Mine owners and colliery holders have new obligations. Employers operating a mine have extensive new duties that build on the *OHS Act*. Contractors have specific requirements for work method statements. The operators' duties are more clearly linked to the *OHS Act*. Employees have a clear statement of their rights and duties. The function and powers of check inspectors are clarified.

The *CMHS Act* supplements the *OHS Act*. It creates additional responsibilities for people in the coal mining industry and sets out additional powers and administrative arrangements. If the

*OHS Act* and *CMHS Act* both deal with the same matter - a person must comply with the *OHS Act*. If possible, the person must also comply with the *CMHS Act*. If it is not possible to comply with both Acts, then the person must comply with the provisions in the *OHS Act*.

The *Explosives Act 2003* and the supporting *Explosives Regulation 2005*, the *OHS Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Act 2003* and the supporting *OHS Amendment (Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2005* came into effect on 1 September 2005 and also apply to the coal mining industry.

The *CMHS Act* applies anywhere in a coal operation where people work. The colliery holder must nominate an operator who is the employer with day-to-day control of the coal operation. An operator has all the duties of an employer in the *OHS Act*. This includes the general duty of care in Section 8 of the *OHS Act* and the duty to consult employees in Sections 13 to 19 of the *OHS Act*.

In addition, the *CMHS Act* gives an operator a duty to prepare a health and safety management system and an emergency management system, control health and safety at all locations at the coal operation and control the activities of contractors.

The health and safety management system must include:

- a health and safety policy
- plans for managing any major hazards
- systems for risk management, training and competence, information control and system evaluation
- a management structure including positions, responsibilities and accountabilities of managers and supervisors
- a plan for managing the risks associated with the use of contractors.

The Regulation details further elements be included in the health and safety system and include an inspection program, information and communication arrangements, supervision arrangements, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering management plan,



*Risk management principles and consultation will form the basis for a new and more relevant legislative framework for the NSW coal mining industry.*

and for ventilation arrangements for parts of an underground mine. People working at the coal operation (including contractors) must be consulted when the system is being prepared. The management structure must include the following positions: manager of mining engineering; manager of electrical engineering in an underground mine; manager of mechanical engineering in an underground mine; and an adequate number of supervisors. A major hazard management plan must state how the health and safety of people is protected.

The regulations specify which hazards are considered major hazards and include slope stability, surface transport, underground transport, strata failure, inrush, fire and explosion, dust explosion, explosives and airborne dust.

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Information 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 risk 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.

## Government implementing

### Wran Review recommendations

The NSW Government is well advanced in implementing the recommendations of the Wran Mine Safety Review.

The Government commissioned the Mine Safety Review, headed by former Premier Neville Wran AC QC, in 2004. It provided the Government with a comprehensive and independent perspective on ways to enhance the safety of mineworkers.

The new, revitalised Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC) has commenced. The MSAC includes senior representatives from some of the most respected bodies in the mining industry including the CFMEU (Mining and Energy Division), Australian Workers Union, NSW Minerals Council and Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia. An independent chairman – Mr Norman Jennings – has been appointed to the MSAC, along with two independent members who are expert in occupational health and safety – Dr Graeme Peel and Ms Barbara McPhee. The recruitment of staff for the MSAC Secretariat has commenced.

The MSAC is progressing expert consultancies into selected Review recommendations. A service provider has been engaged to provide advice on advancing these consultancies.

These recommendations include an assessment of the practice of production bonus payments and safety-based incentive schemes, hours of work and fatigue management, the apparent disconnect between some company management systems/plans and the translation of such systems/plans to a working level and OHS consultation arrangements.

The *Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulations 2006* were released for public consultation ahead of their imminent implementation. The Mine Health and Safety Regulations are being drafted. A working party to address health recommendations in the Wran Review, including representatives from Government, employee and employer groups and an independent health expert, has been approved.

### Five-year average fatal injury frequency falls

The five-year average fatal injury frequency rate (FIFR) for the NSW mining industry has improved dramatically. The FIFR (the number of fatalities per million hours worked) for the period 2001/02 to 2005/06 was 0.04, down 78 per cent on the previous five-year average 0.18 for the period 1996/97 to 2000/01.

The 2005-2006 financial year was the first time the NSW mining industry has remained fatality free for a financial year. NSW has now also recorded three fatality-free 12-month periods. Sadly, the 2006-2007 financial year has seen a fatality in the underground coal sector at Lithgow. An investigation into this incident has commenced. Serious bodily injuries across all sectors increased during the 2005-2006 year. However it should be noted that hours worked figures are yet to be finalised, but early indications suggest they have increased, meaning the rate of serious bodily injuries per million hours worked may not have increased.

## Are you a contractor?

Do you currently receive Safety Alerts and Safety Bulletins from NSW DPI?

If not, register to receive them by sending your details, including name, company, phone and email, to:  
[safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

# New legislative framework for coal mining industry

from front page

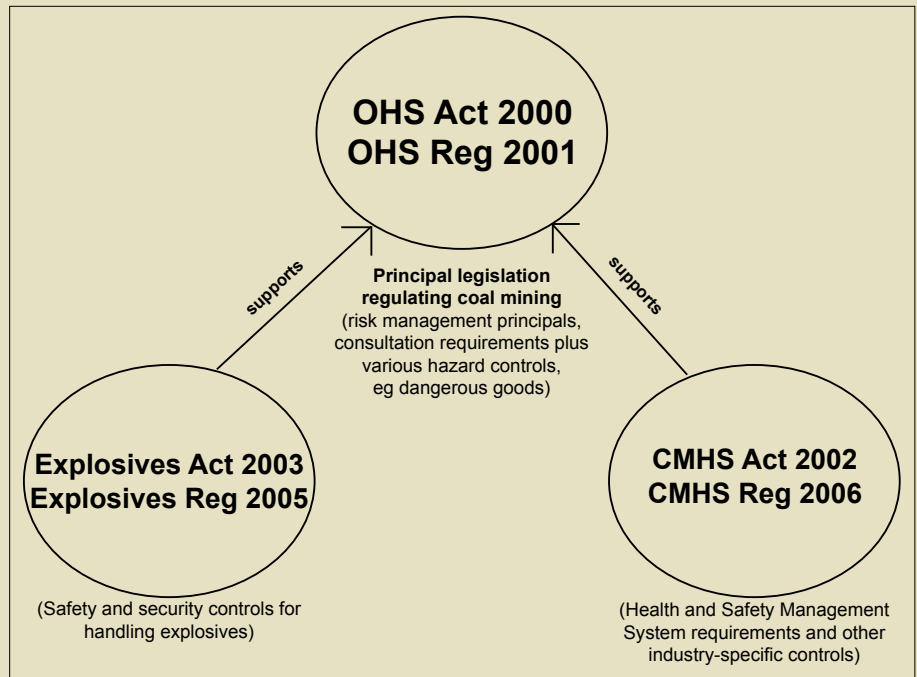
High-risk activities are specified in the Regulation and are to be notified to the Chief Inspector before they are carried out and the specified waiting period in the Regulation has elapsed.

The emergency management system must include an up-to-date plan of the coal operation and information about risks that could result in an emergency; measures that will prevent or limit harmful consequences, including emergency procedures; measures to identify the location of people who may be at risk; equipment, facilities and communication systems; and the control structure that applies in an emergency and the measures to communicate this throughout the coal operation.

The Regulation specifies further requirements to make provision for emergencies and include emergency provisions for both surface and underground parts of coal operations such as fire and emergency provisions, an escape and rescue plan and a firefighting plan for underground parts of the coal operation.

The Minister can approve codes of practice under the *CMHS Act*. A code of practice gives practical guidance to operators, contractors and others on how the required standard of health, can be achieved in an area of work. They should be followed, unless there is an alternative course of action which achieves the same or better standard of health, safety and welfare in the workplace. There will still be requirements for operators to notify the NSW Department of Primary Industries of incidents. There will also be savings and transitional periods for some provisions. The *CMHS Regulation* will provide for the licensing of plant (design and item registration) which replaces the current equipment and plant approvals and mirrors the occupational health and safety regulatory approach.

An operator must ensure that all contractors are familiar with any relevant parts of the operator's health and safety management system and have arrangements for managing health and safety, consistent with the operator's health and safety management system. They must also ensure that all contractors are monitored to make sure they comply with their work method statements and any relevant provisions in the *OHS Act* and *OHS Regulation*. Contractors must prepare a written safe work method statement for the work the contractor is



## What's new in the coal mining legislation

OHS Act 2000 and OHS Reg 2001	CMHS Act 2002 and CMHS Reg 2006
<p><b>Some key elements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision and training</li> <li>• Amenities</li> <li>• Work premises</li> <li>• Design, manufacture and registration of plant</li> <li>• Hazardous processes</li> <li>• Construction work</li> <li>• Certification</li> <li>• Penalty notice offences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Some key elements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Management System</li> <li>• Emergency Management System</li> <li>• Major Hazard Management Plan</li> <li>• Nominated coal operator</li> <li>• Clarified duties</li> <li>• New Coal Competence Board</li> </ul>

going to undertake. Managers and supervisors have duties under the *OHS Act*. Any person identified in an operator's health and safety management system as a manager or supervisor also has duties in the *CMHS Act*. For all mines, the manager of mining engineering and at underground mines the manager of mechanical engineering and electrical engineering have additional duties. Employees must take reasonable care to not adversely affect the health or safety of any people at the coal operation. Employees also have the right to elect a site check inspector and an electrical check inspector. The Minister appoints industry check inspectors and can appoint a public servant as an inspector, a mine safety officer or an investigator. Job functions that require a particular health

and safety competence will be identified in the regulations. The Minister can issue certificates of competence to help in the administration of these requirements. The Coal Competence Board is appointed by the Minister. It advises the Minister and oversees the development of health and safety competence standards. It also assesses the competence of people. When assessing a person's competence, the Board can accept assessments conducted by third parties – for example, assessments conducted in other states or conducted by approved assessors. A summary of the *CMHS Act* is available at [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety). The public consultation draft of the *CHMS Regulation 2006* is available at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals). To view full versions of all NSW legislation visit [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)

## Awards recognise safety innovation

The 2006 OHS Innovation Awards demonstrate why NSW continues to be a leader in occupational health and safety in the mining industry.

The awards are a popular segment of the annual NSW Mining OHS Conference with forty-one entries received this year, with 11 progressing to the final.

The Eye Spy - a simple yet ingenious solution to a significant OHS risk - was judged the winner of this year's OHS Innovation Awards. The Eye Spy was developed at the Mt Thorley Warkworth coal mine. It was designed to eliminate the need for personnel to be under a suspended load when lifting a truck dump body onto a truck. During the lifting process, pivot pin locations need to be in alignment as mobile cranes lower the body onto the truck.

Eye Spy uses video technology with cameras positioned adjacent to the pivot pin locations. Wireless broadcast of the video images enables operators to view the



*Dean Gerard and Michael Caelli from Mount Thorley Warkworth with their innovation award for the Eye Spy.*

position via a remote camera located away from the truck body. No personnel have to move into a position under the suspended load to inspect the pin location alignment. The set-up cost for Eye Spy using two cameras is \$1770.

The winner of the highly commended award was Xstrata Coal NSW West Wallsend Colliery, whose engineering innovations have resulted in a user-friendly continuous miner.

Input from engineers, operators and suppliers was gathered to address continuous miner issues such as workplace access and egress, working in elevated positions, environmental conditions and manual handling.

Centennial Coal's Mannering Colliery received the Commended Award for its vehicle door stop device. A steel latch, which must be moved manually, was designed to prevent heavy doors on shuttle cars swinging closed and potentially causing crush injuries to operators' hands or fingers. The People's Choice award was presented to Illawarra Coal Holdings for its Endeavour Project Live Idler Changing. The designers changed their philosophy so that idler changing removes the idler from the conveyor belt rather than lift the belt clear of the idler.

More information on the all OHS Innovation Awards entries is available from the NSW Minerals Council at [www.nswmin.com.au](http://www.nswmin.com.au)

## Leadership and culture the key to safety performance

Developing a safety culture and embracing safety leadership were the two main themes at the 2006 NSW Minerals Industry OHS Conference at Leura.

Keynote speakers Professor Patrick Hudson and Jim Spigener issued a challenge to the NSW mining industry during their conference presentations to strive for excellence in safety performance.

Almost 450 mining industry delegates attended the four-day conference, which had a theme of 'A Shared Vision'. Delegates representing mine companies, employees, unions and government were encouraged to work together to deliver a mining industry free of fatalities, injuries and workplace-related disease.

Professor Hudson from Leiden University in The Netherlands told delegates that safety management had moved from the technology and systems eras to the culture era.

He said organisations with a 'generative' safety culture were reliable, had low accident rates, actively involved all people and encouraged work initiatives in OHS. They were willing to try new ideas, were obsessive planners, constantly scrutinised procedures, trained and re-trained their people and had a chronic unease about safety.

Quality of leadership is what made the difference in safety performance, Mr Spigener from Behavioural Science Technology in the United States, told delegates. Companies that lead with safety as a core value were able to break through and record improved safety performance.

He said organisations needed to remove the attitude of "trying to prevent injury" and replace it with an attitude of "removing exposure". A review of 1700 fatalities found that in every case someone did something they believed wouldn't cause an injury.

The need to engage all people in an organisation, clear and concise expectations, and regular measurement and reporting on performance were key elements in improving safety performance, the keynote speakers said.

Former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Sydney Olympics chief executive officer Sandy Hollway and former AFL player and coach Ron Barassi shared their views on uniting people for a shared goal during a discussion convened by ABC commentator Margaret Throsby.

Former Test cricketer and current Test selector Merv Hughes shared his



*Jim Spigener (left) and Prof Patrick Hudson (above) deliver their keynote addresses on safety leadership and culture to the OHS Conference. (Below) Ron Barassi, Sandy Hollway and Bob Hawke reveal their strategies for uniting people for a shared goal.*



views on safety attitudes, workforce motivation, back safety and recovery from injury.

Other presentations focused on mining legislation, the role of the regulator, hazard management and measuring acceptable risks, health strategy implementation, the disconnect between corporate OHS policy and safety performance and contractor management.

**For more information about the OHS conference papers contact the NSW Minerals Council on 02 8202 7200 or visit [www.nswmin.com.au](http://www.nswmin.com.au)**

# Coroners recommend action following tyre-handling fatalities

Fatalities at NSW and Queensland mines have prompted State Coroners to recommend a review of tyre handling and tyre design standards, supervision and safety culture. Paul James Strong died on 29 May 2004 from multiple injuries sustained when he was crushed against the rear of a service vehicle by a large earthmover truck tyre while operating a vehicle loading crane with tyre grabs at the Mount Thorley Mine, near Singleton in NSW.

Peter Whitoria Marshall died on 10 February 2004 from crush injuries sustained when he was struck by and pinned under a heavy wheel as a result of an industrial accident at the Zinifex Century Zine Mine near Lawn Hill in Queensland. A co-worker also sustained significant injuries in the incident. Both men were removing or repairing tyres on mining vehicles when they sustained fatal injuries.

Paul Strong was a tyre fitter employed by Marathon Tyres Pty Ltd since 2000 and was described in the Coroner's report as "quite an experienced worker". The NSW DPI Investigation Unit found that Mr Strong had failed to remove himself from the pinch or crush point as he brought the earthmover truck tyre back towards his service vehicle. NSW State Coroner John Abernethy investigated the death of Mr Strong and has recommended that all mine operators in NSW ensure that systems are in place to prevent persons from operating vehicle loading cranes while standing in hazardous positions. These should include vehicle loading crane tyre handlers and remote controlled VLCs.

He has also recommended the formation of a project team to develop an Australian Standard for the safe use of remote controls for mining equipment, having specific application to radio-controlled tyre handlers used on the surface of mines.

Peter Marshall was described in the Queensland Coroner Michael Barnes' report

## NSW DPI re-releases Tyre Safety DVD

Developing a better understanding of tyre safety is the focus of a DVD re-released by NSW DPI. Tyre-changing fatalities have occurred in NSW and Queensland mines during 2004 and 2005.

The *Tyre Safety DVD* addresses some of the major hazards operators face in tyre management on large machinery used in mines. The DVD features presentations on tyre selection by safety consultant Larry Slattery and tyre explosions by Goodyear Earthmover Tyres technical sales representative Jim Petry. The DVD is introduced by NSW DPI Mechanical Engineering Mine Safety Officer Matt Willoughby.

The Australian Standard AS 4457 *Earth-moving machinery—Off-highway rims and wheels—Maintenance and repair*, released in 1997, is currently under review.

The Working Group conducting the review has agreed to develop two parts to the revision of AS 4457 - one to cover the maintenance and repair of wheels and rims and the second part for the maintenance and repair of tyres.

**The Tyre Safety DVD (\$20 incl postage and handling) is available from the Customer Services Counter at Mineral Resources, NSW DPI at Maitland on 02 4931 6666 or email orders@minerals.nsw.gov.au**

as a "well-trained and very experienced" tyre fitter employed by Roche Elton Joint Venture Ltd. The Coroner found that Mr Marshall's departure from proper procedure when repairing the valve stem on a mining vehicle had contributed to his death.

Mr Barnes made three recommendations in his report.

His first recommendation was that the mine company and the contractor engage a competent consultant with an industrial or organisational psychology background to review the safety culture and the operation with a view to better informing management of how safe work practices can be internalised by staff of the mine.

Mr Barnes found that the deceased's lack of compliance with safe work procedures was not an isolated case at the mine site. He found that there were repeated departures from safety procedures over a significant period of time by most, if not all, the tyre fitters. None of the various audits, job safety observations or routine supervision detected these numerous incidents of non-compliance.

He also reported that 18 months after the fatality, the Queensland Mines Inspector who investigated the matter reported making an unannounced visit to the tyre bay and finding four workers in the process of removing a front wheel of a truck without first having deflated the tyre to the safe level. The Coroner also recommended that the Queensland Mines Inspectorate investigate how meaningful supervision can be delivered to a heterogeneous workforce of skilled autonomous workers engaged on a disparate site.

Mr Barnes found that the supervision of the tyre fitters at the site at the time of the incident was lacking in that apparently no one outside the tyre bay knew the tyre fitters were not complying with the relevant job safety analysis.

Mr Barnes also recommended the continued revision of Australian Standard AS 4457 *Earth-moving machinery—Off-highway rims and wheels—Maintenance and repair* be undertaken and that special attention be given to tyre handling, lock ring retention and rim maintenance.



NSW DPI Inspector of Coal Mines David Macpherson, NZ Department of Labour Inspector David Bellett, NZ Coal Mines Inspector Bill Taylor and Tahmoor Colliery Gas Drainage Co-ordinator Ed Mcgonigle during a visit to Centennial Coal Co Ltd's Tahmoor Colliery.

## NSW DPI shares experience with New Zealand

NSW DPI's Investigation Unit and Mine Safety officers have been asked to share their knowledge and experience with counterparts in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Department of Labour (NSW WorkCover equivalent) has asked the Investigation Unit to peer review an investigation into a fatality at a New Zealand underground coal mine. The fatality occurred on March 8 this year at Tiller Mine, a small coal mine near Greymouth. The fatality was the result of an inrush of water from the old workings of an adjacent abandoned mine.

The Unit's Senior Investigator Tony Smith has assisted with the review. An inrush of water is defined in NSW as

a 'prescribed matter' in legislation and is investigated by the Investigation Unit.

Two New Zealand Inspectors involved in the investigation recently visited NSW to review mine safety initiatives in the NSW mining industry. They visited Centennial's Tahmoor Colliery accompanied by NSW DPI Inspector of Coal Mines David Macpherson to view current best practice underground drilling and gas drainage techniques. They also attended a Gas and Coal Outburst Committee Seminar in Wollongong.

The NZ Inspectors were briefed by NSW DPI Mine Safety Officers David Cram and John Tsillos on the Department's Small Mines Safety Campaign programs.



*NSW DPI Mine Safety Operations South-East Area Manager Bill Barraclough and Senior Mine Safety Officer at Lightning Ridge Dave Howell congratulate Opal Mines Safety Awareness Course presenter Bruce Kremmer (centre) on achieving his 200th presentation of the successful education program.*

## Bruce presents his 200th Safety Awareness Course

Mining engineer and former NSW Senior Inspector of Mines Bruce Kremmer has delivered his 200th NSW DPI Lightning Ridge Opal Mines Safety Awareness Course.

First run 13 years ago, the Safety Awareness Course is one of the most successful occupational health and safety courses in the mining industry.

The success of the course can be seen in the reduction of fatalities and serious bodily injuries in the NSW opal mining sector. No opal mining fatalities have been recorded in NSW during the past nine years, compared to one a year in the preceding 10 years.

The 200th Safety Awareness Course was presented by Mr Kremmer at White Cliffs. Almost 6000 people have now attended the course and it has also been presented in South Australia, while opal miners from Yowah in Queensland also regularly attend. A NSW opal claim cannot be registered or renewed by anyone who has not completed the course. The Safety Awareness Course has been used as a model to develop the successful NSW DPI Small Mines Campaign.

The many years of commitment and diligence by Mr Kremmer to the principles and ideals of safety is highly valued and appreciated by NSW DPI, and his colleagues in the Mine Safety Operations Branch.

For more information visit [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety)

## Accident/incident forms on website

Mine operators in the metalliferous and extractive industries can now download the latest version of the Mine Accident/Incident Form from the NSW DPI website.

Mines must complete and send the Mine Accident/Incident Form to NSW DPI if, as a result of an accident/incident at the mine site, a person dies or suffers a serious injury.

A form must also be sent if there is a dangerous incident at the mine site, even if no one is injured. A dangerous incident is an event that has the potential to cause loss of life to a number of persons at the mine or in the vicinity of the mine.

Reporting is obligatory for accidents/incidents in NSW.

The owner or manager of the mine site has a statutory responsibility under the *Mines Inspection Act 1901* and *General Rule 2000* for sending in the Mine Accident/Incident Form. The form must be sent to NSW DPI within 24 hours of a death or serious injury; within 24 hours of a dangerous incident; and within 7 days of receiving a medical certificate about a serious work-related illness.

Download the form at [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/prevention/notifications/accident\\_and\\_incidents](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/prevention/notifications/accident_and_incidents)

## Cadia Valley Operations employees embrace the wellness challenge

An environment fostering consultation is improving occupational health and safety, fitness for work and employee wellness at Cadia Valley Operations in central west NSW.

Cadia Valley Operations' underground and open cut gold/copper mine employees have embraced safety initiatives, in particular its Wellness Program, with encouraging results, according to the company.

Increasing joint and back injuries in load and haul employees, along with employee weight and associated health-related issues and sedentary occupations prompted Cadia Valley Operations into action.

The company initiated and sponsored an entirely voluntary nine-month Wellness Program to further develop self-management of work fitness using a holistic approach. The program also aimed to create a fitter and healthier workforce, reduce absenteeism, reduce injuries, improve employee recruitment and retention and enhance morale and job satisfaction.

To date, more than 95 per cent of employees have taken up Wellness Program challenge.

Programs are individually tailored using local facilitators and are available across the operation. Assessments are made of employees' weight, waist, body fat percentage, dietary fat intake, body mass index (BMI) hip-to-waist ratio, heart rate recovery, abdominal strength, hamstring and lower back flexibility, grip strength and blood pressure.

As a result more than 410kg of body fat and more than 7 metres of girth have been lost.

Employees have reported improved sleep patterns, an improved sense of their own wellbeing and there has been a reduction in the number and severity of injuries.

Newcrest Mining, General Manager Margin Improvement Program Tim Lehany told the NSW Minerals OHS Conference that the Wellness Program "aligns and reinforces our values" of a broad-based involvement in driving OHS improvement.



*Cadia Valley Operations leading hand (open pit mining) Steve Annetts has his blood pressure checked as part of the mine operation's employee wellness program.*

## Local Check Inspectors Conference

The role of check inspectors under the new Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002 and Regulations will be a major focus of this year's NSW DPI Local Check Inspectors Conference.

The conference will be held at Penrith Panthers, Mulgoa Road, Penrith on Monday September 25.

The *CMHS Act* and *CMHS Regulation* are expected to come into effect this year. Inspections and auditing will also be addressed at the conference during a session provided by an accredited trainer.

# Reward your leaders in safety improvement

Delegates at the 16th Annual NSW DPI Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar were told that a vigorous and systematic approach to safety would help mines meet legislative compliance. More than 180 industry representatives took part in the two-day seminar at Penrith Panthers during August. The development of the new legislative framework for the NSW coal mining industry was a key focus of the seminar, which had a theme of Understanding Mechanical Engineering in OHS. Presentations were made on the mechanics of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*, the principal legislation regulating the mining industry, the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002* and the pending *Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation 2006*. In particular, they were advised of the function of codes of practice and the need for engineering standards of practice. Keynote speaker Michael Deegan, the chairman of the National Transport Committee and the project director of the Epping to Chatswood rail link, said safety should be used as a driver of productivity and profit and spoke of the need to reward safety leaders at all levels of an organisation.



*Lea Constantine, partner at law firm Blake Dawson Waldron, addresses the Mechanical Engineering Safety Seminar on the mechanics of OHS from a legal perspective.*

He said leadership was vital in creating safe working environments. Good management practices were essential, and it was not just about engineering but "a bit of caring and people management".

Mining operators and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) were encouraged to work together to develop safety requirement specifications. OEMs were advised to understand the environment in which their clients operated.

Risk management could be best managed when the risks were understood. Leaders were told to involve their people in developing

risk management practices. Mechanical Engineering Management Plans will be an important part of the new mine safety legislative framework and need to bring together all aspects of mechanical engineering safety.

Other presentations focused on hydraulic safety, maintenance strategy review, human factors, the CraneSafe program, OHS as a business risk, safety audits for mine winders and MDG 35: *Guideline for Bolting and Drill Equipment in Mines*.

CDs of seminar presentations are available by emailing Karen Feeney at NSW DPI at [karen.feeney@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:karen.feeney@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Contractor fatally injured in underground coal mine

The NSW DPI Investigation Unit is inquiring into a fatality at the Angus Place Colliery underground coal mine at Lidsdale, near Lithgow, on 26 July 2006. A contractor was fatally injured while collecting fluid samples from a large hydraulic system used to power longwall machinery. He suffered severe head injuries consistent with high-pressure fluid injection. The exact cause of the release has not been determined. A Senior Investigator from the Unit is heading up the inquiry into the fatality. Safety Alert SA06-16 *Contractor fatally injured by high-pressure hydraulic equipment* was released following the incident. It is available at [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/alerts](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/alerts)

## Electrical engineering focus of safety seminar

The 16th annual NSW DPI Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar will be held at Penrith Panthers on November 15 and 16.

Seminar presentations will include legislative updates, standards updates, assigning and designing to an appropriate Safety Integrity Levels (SIL). They will also focus on walking a dragline through a Transgrid easement, feedback on electric shock audits, the role of the NSW DPI Investigation Unit and a case study investigation.

Industry speakers will also present papers.

The contact person is Paul de Gruchy at the Maitland NSW DPI office on 02 4931 6654. To register an expression of interest in attending the Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar, email your contact details to [minesafety@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minesafety@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Industry will be advised of the seminar agenda and papers when they become available through direct mail and on the NSW DPI website at [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety)

**16th Annual NSW DPI**

**Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar**

**Panthers, Penrith 15 – 16 November 2006**

**For further information about the seminar contact:  
Paul De Gruchy on 02 4931 6654**

## Engineers must continue to improve their knowledge

Changing technological developments require engineers to stay abreast of the mining industry's latest trends.

Engineers Australia national president Peter Cockbain gave a presentation on the role of the engineer in the mining industry at a combined Mining Electrical and Mining Mechanical Engineering Society (MEMMES) meeting in Cessnock during June for mechanical and electrical engineers in underground and open cut coal mines.

Mr Cockbain outlined Continued Professional Development (CPD)

requirements, as well as

how this program will affect the mining industry and how Engineers Australia manages the CPD for its members.

Mr Cockbain also discussed recent engineering technology issues he has observed during domestic and overseas visits, identifying major advances in safety and efficiency made in Australia, by using the latest technology.

NSW DPI Mine Safety Operations officers presented papers on OHS requirements, the effect of new legislation on engineers, and a visit to China by NSW DPI and Austar to inspect the longwall top coal caving method.

A video on the findings of the North Parkes windblast incident was also shown.

Xstrata Ravensworth Electrical Engineer Luke Dyer gave a paper on the inspection tour of the TestSafe facility at Londonderry which 15 engineering apprentices visited. This was organised and funded by MEMMES.

They watched fire resistant and anti-static (FRAS) testing, diesel testing, destructive testing of wire ropes and explosion protection, to name just a few areas covered by TestSafe.

The group developed a greater understanding of why and how equipment tests are conducted to verify against Australian Standards. Ninety-three engineers attended the meeting and MEMMES plans to conduct a combined meeting of this type every year.



*Engineers Australia national president Peter Cockbain addresses mechanical and electrical engineers on the need for continuing professional development.*

## Prosecutions update

### Wyee Colliery

On 6 May 1999 a rope (wire) failed on a dolly car containing four persons at the Wyee Colliery. Three jumped from the car and one rode it to the bottom and sustained minor injuries. The NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) investigated the matter and charges under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* were laid against the company Powercoal Pty Ltd (now owned by Centennial Coal) for failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all of its employees. Powercoal Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to the charge. On 25 May 2006 a fine of \$160,000 was imposed on Powercoal Pty Ltd by the NSW Industrial Court.

### Eureka Opals Pty Ltd

On 28 March 2000 a young opal miner received injuries following the fall of the roof in the area where he was working in an underground opal mine at Dead Bird Opal field. As a result of an investigation by NSW DPI, charges under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* were brought against Peter Buchanan and Eureka Opals Pty Ltd. Peter Buchanan pleaded guilty in April 2004 to the offence of failing to ensure a safe workplace and was fined \$4500. The full bench of the NSW Industrial Court found on 25 November 2005 that the claimholder, Eureka Opals Pty Ltd, had breached section 17 (1)(a) of the OHS Act by failing to ensure that the access and egress to a premises controlled by it was safe and without risks to health. On 7 June 2006 the NSW Industrial Court imposed a penalty of \$30,000 on Eureka Opals Pty Ltd.

### Glennies Creek

On 7 February 2003 four people were exposed to a high-voltage arcing fault at Glennies Creek Colliery following exposed conductors and energised cables being left uncapped. Injuries suffered by the four included partial deafness, disorientation, burning sensations of the ears and other symptoms. As a result of an investigation by NSW DPI, two charges under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* were laid against each of Glennies Creek Coal Management Pty Ltd and the mine manager Peter Keith Ross. Both Glennies Creek Coal Management Pty Ltd and Peter Ross pleaded guilty. An arrangement on the basis of discontinuing proceedings against the mine electrical engineer Desmond John Hancox was agreed on the basis that he would surrender his ticket of competency and not reapply for three years. Mr Hancox also undertook not to work in the role of mine electrical engineer. The other defendant in the matter, JVUM Pty Ltd, has also pleaded guilty. On 30 June 2006 the NSW Industrial Court fined Glennies Creek Coal Management Pty Ltd \$80,000 for each offence (\$160,000 total). Peter Ross was fined \$8000 for each offence (\$16,000 total).

*Since the introduction of the new enforcement policy in 1999 there has been 33 successful prosecutions resulting in conviction. Nine matters are before the courts with one of the matters involving a guilty plea.*

## ILO adopts new code of practice for underground coal mines

A new international code of practice designed to improve the health and safety of miners in underground coalmines will go to the International Labour Organisation for endorsement in November.

Experts representing governments, employers and workers adopted the *Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Underground*

*Coalmines* during a meeting in May. The code sets out a national framework that specifies the role of authorities, employers, workers and their organisations. It also comprises a method for identifying hazards, preventing and minimising risks and specific provisions for safe underground mining operations. The new code replaces the existing one

adopted in 1986 and reflects the many changes in industry and the workforce. It is not intended to replace national laws or regulations or accepted standards.

The code can be accessed at [www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/meshcm06/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/techmeet/meshcm06/index.htm)



## SA06-11: Risk Management Injury at Drilling Site

Two field technicians were injured when struck on the head by a 3m long by 89mm diameter drill rod weighing approximately 35 kilograms. The field technicians were assisting a contract driller to break a frozen thread on the air swivel of an exploration drilling rig. The field technicians sustained moderate injuries. Contributing factors include: lever used without first applying risk management principles and the hierarchy of controls; drill rig started while persons were at risk. All mines, exploration drill rig owners and operators should review their exploration drilling activities and practices with regard to developing and implementing effective isolation procedures to control exposure to hazardous energies; providing information and training to ensure persons are competent to carry out their work activities; ensuring contractors' safety management plans are approved, regularly reviewed and are effectively implemented; ensuring equipment is fit for purpose; conducting JSA or risk assessment for all non-routine high-risk work activities. Also refer to and review the *Minerals Industry Safety Handbook* (Section 4.2.7 Exploration Drilling).



## SA06-12: Maintenance of Safety Critical Systems

There have been several incidents relating to the failure of braking and steering systems on mobile equipment. One incident resulted in a workplace fatality. Incidents involved mobile equipment in both above-ground and below ground applications. In all circumstances the mobile equipment was descending a grade and then due to

the failure of a safety critical system, control was lost. The back-up emergency/secondary braking and steering systems were unable to prevent the mobile equipment from collision. The investigations found that on all occasions the failure of safety critical systems from poor maintenance practices were contributing factors. All mines should immediately review their mine safety management plan to ensure all foreseeable hazards associated with mobile plant becoming out of control have been addressed; review maintenance managements systems and daily pre-start safety checks; people operating or working on mobile plant are familiar with all safety critical systems, trained and competent; periodic competent inspection of mobile equipment; a documented safety file is maintained; audits are conducted regularly; mobile equipment is assessed against relevant requirements of MDG 15 and operator and passenger protection is provided and worn. All mobile equipment designers, manufacturers and suppliers should review designs and documentation to ensure end users understand and can operate and maintain mobile equipment in a safe manner, and warning systems are designed such that failure of the warning system will give rise to the activation of an audible alarm.

## SA06-13: Braking Standards for Trucks

A truck driver was fatally injured at a quarry when the truck he was driving failed to negotiate a corner and rolled down an embankment. The truck was loaded and descending the haul road when the incident occurred. The haul road was an average slope of 21% (1:4.7) with peaks at almost 25% (1:4). The investigation found that compliance with recognised braking standards does not automatically mean the truck is safe to operate on all grades of a mining operation. To meet occupational health and safety obligations it is expected that all mobile equipment can ascend, descend, stop and hold stationary on all grades on which they traverse with consideration to the gross vehicle mass (GVM); the operating environment; and the failure modes of the truck. As a minimum, brakes should be designed and tested in accordance with the recognised standards. All mines should immediately review their site haulage routes and identify all trucks travelling on grades in excess of 10%.

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## Safety Alerts and Safety Bulletins

Safety Alerts are an important communication tool between the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the NSW mining industry, suppliers, unions and industry organisations.

NSW DPI issues Safety Alerts following the occurrence of an event such as a fatal accident, dangerous occurrence or incident which is considered to be of significance to the industry, with the aim of preventing a similar occurrence.

Safety Bulletins are also issued by NSW DPI. Like Safety Alerts, they contain information relating to safety issues but are not directly linked to a specific incident.

Safety Alerts and Safety Bulletins can be accessed on the NSW DPI website at [minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/alerts](http://minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/alerts)

**If you would like to receive an email copy of Safety Alerts and Safety Bulletins, email your contact details to [safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:safetyalert@dpi.nsw.gov.au)**

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Where mobile equipment is operating on grades steeper than 10%, they should contact the equipment manufacturer and have them confirm in writing that the above criteria is met and the mobile equipment is safe to use on the specified grade under the specified conditions.

#### **SA06-14: Safe Operating Grades for Mobile Equipment**

It has become apparent that mobile equipment manufacturers' information on transmission and retarder performance is being misinterpreted as safe grades for use. This misinterpretation may result in mobile equipment being used on steeper grades than those in which the mobile equipment can safely stop, in the event of a transmission failure. Typically equipment manufacturers supply gradeability and retardation charts. In conjunction with a statement that the braking systems comply with AS 2958.1 or ISO 3450, mines may be misinterpreting these charts as safe grades for use. Mines should identify all grades on their site where mobile equipment is used; confirm, with the manufacturer, whether the particular mobile equipment is safe to use on these grades following failure of the retarder or transmission; review the integrity of the braking systems to ensure they are fit for purpose for the grades being traversed; and ensure maintenance practices on braking systems are consistent with the level of risk for the site haul roads. Mobile equipment designers, manufacturers and suppliers should provide appropriate information to end users; review the integrity of braking systems to ensure they are fit for purpose; and ensure mobile equipment braking systems can stop and hold in accordance with the criteria specified in SA06-13 for all identified retarder performance grades.



#### **SA06-15: Unplanned Movement of Elevating Work Platform**

An elevated work platform (EWP) operator and his assistant were injured and trapped in an elevating work platform basket when the machine suddenly moved forward causing the basket to crash into the bucket of a P&H 4100 shovel. The EWP operator and his assistant were part of a team that were changing hoist ropes on the bucket. They were in the process of fitting new hoist ropes to the equaliser on the bucket. The operator, whilst assisting to hold the ropes, had to manoeuvre the EWP. This process required him to put his foot on the "dead man" and turn 180 degrees to actuate the controls, as the control panel was directly behind him. The operator put his foot on the "dead man" and was reaching for the boom-up control when the EWP propelled forward into the bucket. Investigations are continuing into the functional integrity of all the EWP systems. Issues of concern

are the safety locking mechanism of the forward / reverse control lever jams in the unlocked position and the safety locking mechanism of the swing control lever jams in the unlocked position. Ensure all pieces of hired equipment have a thorough mechanical and electrical inspection prior to work, to assess fitness for work; ensure thorough pre-work inspections are carried out by competent people; ensure that hired equipment is appropriately maintained and is set up in accordance with the operator's manual; operators are competent with the various types of EWPs they are required to operate and risk assessments are carried out thoroughly and emergency rescue procedures are in place.

#### **SA06-16: Fatal High-Pressure Hydraulic Injection**

A contractor was fatally injured while taking fluid samples from a large hydraulic system used to power longwall machinery at an underground coal mine. The contractor was at the mine to take fluid (oil) samples from the longwall hydraulic system at various points. The contractor was found adjacent to an open high-pressure hydraulic staple connection. Fatal injuries were consistent with hydraulic injection. The hydraulic system has a nominal pressure of 305 bar (approx. 4350 psi). A detailed investigation has been initiated. Specific recommendations are not available until the investigation nears completion. All mines should include the management of high-pressure fluid systems as an integral part of their mine safety management system which should include a comprehensive Management Plan to manage the risks associated with high-pressure fluids; a review of previous injuries, accidents and significant incidents due to high-pressure hydraulics; a hazard awareness program; appropriate levels of competence for persons accessing high-pressure hydraulics; a clear isolation policy; a process to identify if pressure is contained in a system and a means to drain pressure from a system without disconnecting fittings; a process to take fluid samples from a system safely; clear identification of high-pressure, medium-pressure and low-pressure fluid lines; avoiding having quick-action hydraulic valves which can be opened and spray a person with high-pressure hydraulic fluid; an effective hose management system and use of anti-whip devices for those hoses most vulnerable to becoming disconnected.

#### **SAFETY BULLETINS**

##### **SB06-05: Storing explosives**

Two explosive magazines at a quarry site in southern NSW were recently broken into. A significant amount of explosives, detonators and detonating cord were stolen. Oxy-cutting equipment was used to break into the door of one magazine and the locking mechanism of another. Police are investigating the incident. Both magazines were built to Australian Standard 2187, Part 1. Stock changes were able to be verified as log books to account for the explosives and detonators were kept within the magazines. This enabled police to determine the exact amount stolen. Documented Site Security Plans are required in order to obtain a licence under the *Explosives Act 2003* if mines or quarries are storing explosives, detonators or security sensitive dangerous substances such as ammonium nitrate (AN). Explosives and detonators are to be kept in accordance with the Australian Standard 2187, Part 1 and magazine log books are to be kept in accordance with Australian Standard 2187, Part 4. Ammonium nitrate is to be kept in accordance with Australian Standard 4326-1995. All mines should review their Site Security Plans with a view to improving security arrangements to minimise the possibility of unauthorised persons gaining entry to magazines.



The Mines Rescue Challenge at Cobar attracted rescue teams from throughout NSW.

## Mines rescue challenge helps inspire a common purpose

Mine rescue teams have used the annual NSW Mine Rescue Challenge to improve their skill and develop a sense of common purpose. The Challenge was not run on a competitive basis. Rather teams were encouraged to use the event to help workmates, learn from others, recognise strengths and identify areas of improvement in mines rescue activities. NSW DPI Director of Mine Safety Operations Rob Regan opened the three-day event in Cobar in July and paid special mention to CSA, Endeavor and Peak mines for their hard work in organising the Challenge. Nine teams took part from North Parkes,

Perilya Broken Hill, Mt Arthur Coal, CSA, Bengalla Coal, Endeavor, Peak Gold and Tritton mines.

Mine rescue teams were not only given the opportunity to test their skills but also learn from other teams and benefit from expert 'coaching' from interstate and New Zealand adjudicators.

Teams included a high proportion of new or relatively inexperienced team members in order to take full advantage of the training opportunities. They participated in six events - Road Accident Rescue, Triage, Firefighting, Search and Rescue, Vertical Rescue and Endurance. The Esprit de Corp trophy was awarded to the CSA Mine.

## Certification recognises quarry managers' competence

Quarry managers and supervisors can have their professional status recognised with the introduction of the Quarry Management Certification System (QMCS). The Institute of Quarrying Australia has initiated the system to establish consistent national professional standards which allow quarry professionals to have their competence recognised nationally and be able to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills. The QMCS covers all aspects of the certification process including specifications for each grade, identification of skills and required knowledge, ongoing professional development, a recording system for ongoing compliance and audits, as well as a code of ethics. Any Institute of Quarrying Australia

member who is an experienced quarry manager or supervisor wanting to have professional status acknowledged can apply. Non-members can apply to join the IQA at the same time as submitting a QMCS application. Applications will be evaluated against a set of standards and examined by the QMCS Board of Certified Practitioners comprising recognised industry experts. Certified practitioners will be expected to uphold the code of ethics, undertake professional development and maintain professional practice on an ongoing basis. More information and applications to the Secretary of the Certified Practising Board, Greg Bondar, on 02 9546 2257 or executive@quarry.com.au. Application forms are available online at [www.quarry.com.au](http://www.quarry.com.au)

## Exemption under Explosives Act

Under the *Explosives Act 2003*, a new licensing system was introduced in NSW from 1 September 2005 for importers, manufacturers, transporters, suppliers, users and other classes of persons.

The *Explosives Act* enabled an existing licence or permit that authorised an activity involving explosives prior to the commencement of the Act to continue to authorise the activity under the Act in respect of which it was granted until 1 September 2006. Under section 94 of the *Explosives Regulation 2005* WorkCover NSW may, by order published in the *NSW Government Gazette*, exempt any class of persons or things from a specified provision of the regulation unconditionally or subject to conditions. Exemption Order CE 2006/004 was gazetted on 1 September 2006.

The exemption relates to clause 15(1) of the *Explosives Regulation* and the requirement for a person to be authorised by a Blasting Explosives Users Licence and/or an Unsupervised Handling Licence granted under clause 16 the *Explosives Regulation*.

The object of this exemption is to allow persons who have applied to WorkCover prior to 1 September 2006 for a Blasting Users Licence but have not yet been advised by WorkCover of the outcome of their application, to continue for up to three months to be allowed to undertake blasting activities in accordance with the conditions of the licence or permit they held prior to the commencement of the *Explosives Act 2003*. In effect a person who was authorised under the *Dangerous Goods Act 1975*, *Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982* or *Mines Inspection Act 1901* immediately before the commencement of this Order may be eligible to continue for up to three months, to carry out those activities of the type required to be authorised under a Blasting Explosives Users Licence.

The exemption is subject to several conditions being met which are outlined in the Order. Please note, under Clause 95 of the *Explosives Regulation 2005* a register of all exemptions granted must be kept by WorkCover and be available for public inspection upon request.

## Guidelines for preparing emergency plans

Mines with a notifiable quantity of dangerous goods are required to create and submit an Emergency Plan to the NSW Fire Brigades.

NSWFB recommends that a whole-of-site approach is adopted when developing a comprehensive Emergency Plan.

The Plan should help operators and licence holders meet their compliance obligations under the *Explosive Regulation 2005* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001*.

For more detail and related information on preparing an Emergency Plan visit [www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au/business/guidelines/dangerousgoods.php](http://www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au/business/guidelines/dangerousgoods.php) To download the document *Guidelines for Emergency Plans at Facilities having Notifiable Quantities of Dangerous Goods* go to [www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au/business/guidelines/Guidelines\\_EmergencyPlans.pdf](http://www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au/business/guidelines/Guidelines_EmergencyPlans.pdf)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mine Operators Workshops 2006**, Workshops held regularly, Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge  
Janet Town, DPI, 02 6829 0678

**Mine Safety Awareness Course**, Courses held regularly, Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.  
Janet Town, DPI, 02 6829 0678

**Hunter Valley Underground Mine Mechanical Engineers Meeting**, Quarterly meeting, dates and venues TBA,  
Paul Drain, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 4931 6652

**Hunter Valley Opencut Mine Mechanical Engineers Meeting**, Quarterly meetings, venues TBA  
Matt Willoughby, Mine Safety Officer DPI (02) 65 721899

**Southern & Western Coalfields Mechanical Engineers meeting**, location & dates TBA (Quarterly meeting)  
Graham Johnston, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 4222 8307 or Wally Kope, Inspector Mechanical Engineering, DPI (02) 4227 1699

**Meeting with Industry Groups**, Location & date TBA (3 meetings per annum)  
Gordon Jervis, Snr Inspector of Mines Mechanical Engineering (02) 4931 6642

**NSW DPI Local Check Inspectors Conference**, 25 September 2006, Penrith Panthers  
Lisa Keevill, NSW DPI (02) 4931 6625

**Mechanical Safety Presentations to the Extractive Industries**, Closed workshop 'onsite'. Bookings — generally workshops are not open to broader industry however if you would like more information please contact DPI. Held periodically throughout the year, as required  
Angus McDouall, Inspector Mines, DPI (02) 6776 0309. Paul Drain, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 4931 6652 (Nth Coast)  
Matt Willoughby, Mine Safety Officer, DPI (02) 6572 1899 (Mid North Coast)

**Hunter Valley Electrical Engineers meeting**, Held bi-monthly on the first Friday of the month — venues change for each meeting  
Contact John Waudby Senior Inspector Electrical Engineering (02) 4931 6641 or 0418 295 656

**Southern and Western Coalfields Electrical Engineers meeting**, quarterly (limited numbers).  
TestSafe, Londonderry, Bob Kennedy, Inspector of Electrical Engineering (02) 4227 1699 or 0417 226 362

**HIESN (Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network) meeting**, Meets the first Thursday of each month — venues change.  
Peter Henderson, Tomago Aluminium 0408 683 544

**Western & Central Western NSW (Cobar, Broken Hill, Orange) Mine Electrical Engineer meeting**, Venue & date TBA  
Stan Maginnis, Inspector of Electrical Engineering, (02) 6351 3052 or 0417 223 875

**NSW DPI 16th Annual Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar**, 15 and 16 November 2006, Penrith Panthers  
Paul DeGruchy, Senior Inspector Electrical Engineering, (02) 4931 6654

**Remote Control Equipment Advisory Group meeting**, Invite required, see contact for more details. Meets quarterly  
John Waudby, Senior Inspector Electrical Engineering, (02) 4931 6641 or 0418 295 656

**MEMMES (Mining Electrical and Mining Mechanical Engineers Society of the IEAust) Meeting**, Monthly, Meeting  
Contact: Ron Rennex, Acting Secretary (02) 4938 0194

For more information go to: [www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/upcoming\\_events](http://www.minerals.nsw.gov.au/safety/upcoming_events)

## NSW DPI — Mineral Resources Offices

### MAITLAND

NSW Department of Primary Industries  
Mineral Resources  
516 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320  
(PO Box 344, Hunter Region MC NSW 2310)  
Phone: (02) 4931 6666, Fax: (02) 4931 6790

### ARMIDALE

NSW Department of Primary Industries,  
Earth Sciences Building (C2)  
University of New England, Armidale NSW 2350  
Phone: (02) 6738 8500, Fax: (02) 6772 8664

### BROKEN HILL

Level 2, 32 Sulphide Street,  
Broken Hill NSW 2880  
(Note changed PO Box number)  
(PO Box 696 Broken Hill NSW 2880)  
Phone: (08) 8088 9300, Fax: (08) 8087 8005

### COBAR

Government Offices, 62–64 Marshall Street,  
Cobar NSW 2835  
(PO Box 157 Cobar NSW 2835)  
Phone: (02) 6836 4392, Fax: (02) 6836 4395

### LIGHTNING RIDGE

Lot 60 Morilla Street, Lightning Ridge NSW 2834  
(PO Box 314 Lightning Ridge NSW 2834)  
Phone: (02) 6829 0678, Fax: (02) 6829 0825

### LITHGOW

Suite 1, Level 1, 184 Mort Street, Lithgow NSW  
2790  
(PO Box 69 Lithgow NSW 2790)  
Phone: (02) 6350 7888, Fax: (02) 6352 3876

### LONDONDERRY

Core Library  
947–953 Londonderry Road,  
Londonderry NSW 2753  
Phone: (02) 4777 4316, Fax: (02) 4777 4397

### ORANGE

(Note changed address and telephone numbers)  
161 Kite Street, Orange 2800  
(Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800)  
Phone: (02) 6360 5333, Fax: (02) 6360 5363  
After hours – emergency only – (02) 6360 5343



NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

### SINGLETON

1 Civic Avenue, Coal Services Building,  
Singleton NSW 2330  
(PO Box 51 Singleton NSW 2330)  
Phone: (02) 6571 8788, Fax: (02) 6572 1201

### THORNTON

Mine Safety Technology Centre  
8 Hartley Drive, Thornton NSW 2310  
(PO Box 343, Hunter Region Mail Centre,  
NSW 2310)  
Phone: (02) 4924 4000, Fax: (02) 4924 4080

### WOLLONGONG

State Government Offices  
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street,  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
(PO Box 674 Wollongong NSW 2520)  
Phone: (02) 4222 8333, Fax: (02) 4226 3851