



Commissioner for
**Resources Safety
& Health**

Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Annual report 2022–23



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Have your say

The Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee hopes you find this annual report informative. The advisory committee welcomes any comments and feedback about the report. Please send your feedback to commissioner@rshq.qld.gov.au.

30 October 2023

The Honourable Scott Stewart MP
Minister for Resources
1 William Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 68(1) of the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*, I am pleased to submit to you the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee annual report for the year ending 30 June 2023.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate', followed by a long horizontal line.

Kate du Preez
Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health

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From the Chair

I am proud to report that in 2022–23, the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee has continued to consolidate its achievements under its *Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee strategic plan 2022–27*.

This report outlines the key programs of work completed in 2022–23 in pursuit of its mission *to provide contemporary, evidence-based advice to the Minister that focuses on making mineral mine and quarry workers safer and healthier*.

The advisory committee takes an evidence-based approach to its advice to the Minister and makes use of the broad range of knowledge and experience of its members and stakeholders from across the industry.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee, in conjunction with the office of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health and the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, commenced a survey of the safety reporting culture in the coal mining, mineral mining and quarrying industries.

The *Queensland mining industry safety reporting survey* is an illustration of the effectiveness of the tripartite advisory committee model and its ability to bring together the knowledge and experience of a range of stakeholders to implement a milestone project for the mining industry. The survey will help to identify areas the advisory committee should be reviewing to ensure continuous improvement.

In developing the survey, the advisory committee formed an expert working group to help adapt Safer Together's *Safety Culture Survey Tool*, which was originally developed for the petroleum and gas industry, to suit the Queensland mining and quarrying industries.

A survey of this size and scope has not been attempted before in the Queensland mining industry and will provide valuable insight into the current state of the industry's safety reporting culture.

Another key achievement has been the development and publication of the *Risk assessment education resource* which is a tool to assist the industry to improve the quality of operational risk management practices and provides practical examples for use on mine and quarry sites.

The resource also included a detailed example of risk management processes for vehicle interaction hazards, including examples of controls and how to verify the effectiveness of those controls. This resource delivers on the objective of assisting in the development of a safe and healthy workplace and illustrates the advisory committee's commitment to improving the effectiveness of the control of risk to any person from mineral mining and quarrying operations.

The advisory committee also provided advice to the Minister on proposed legislative changes being considered by Resources Safety and Health Queensland in the *Facilitating High Reliability Organisation behaviours in Queensland's Resources Sector and Modernising Regulatory Enforcement* consultation regulatory impact statement.

Over the next 12 months, the advisory committee will prioritise providing advice to the Minister on proposed legislative changes and supporting the continued implementation of the *Queensland mining industry safety reporting survey* and analysis of results.

I would like to thank all members and substitute members for their participation in the advisory committee. Members often work many hours out-of-session to review documentations and complete projects so they are ready to come together to participate in open and frank discussions to ensure high-level independent advice is provided to the Minister.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate du Preez", followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Kate du Preez

Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health

Year at a glance

Objective	Key achievements
A safe and healthy workplace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and implemented, in conjunction with the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee and the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health, the Queensland mining industry safety reporting survey. • Developed and published the <i>Risk assessment education resource</i> to assist industry to improve the quality of operational risk management in the mineral mining and quarrying industry. • Explored the application of process safety methodology in the mineral mining and quarrying industries. • Considered the findings of an expert report examining fatigue and fatigue management in the Queensland mining industry and its relationship with mental health and safety outcomes. • Considered Safe Work Australia's decision to reduce the workplace exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica. • Observed and reviewed relevant information and data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – significant accident and injury data, trends and identified audit findings – airborne contaminants data – work program and data concerning mine lung dust disease. • Advised the Minister regarding amendments to the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 to establish new blood lead level thresholds, airborne lead level thresholds and monitoring and reporting requirements for mine operators. • Advised the Minister on the <i>Facilitating High Reliability Organisation behaviours in Queensland's Resources Sector and Modernising Regulatory Enforcement</i> consultation regulatory impact statement. • Advised the Minister on the feasibility of a proposal from the Electrical Trades Union to amend the <i>Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999</i> and the <i>Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999</i> to allow entry permit holders under the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i> the ability to access workshops, shutdowns and construction sites on mining leases.
A competent workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged Simtars to complete a review of the Queensland mineral mining and quarrying competencies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identify opportunities to remove extraneous or out-of-date qualifications – further streamline competency tables – make it easier for mine workers to access and understand the relevant competencies required for a particular role. • Reviewed competency requirements for site senior executives and site safety and health representatives.
An informed industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informed the Minister about emerging issues, their potential impact and proactive best practice safety and health activities.
An effective advisory committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated the advisory committee five-year strategic plan and action plan. • Developed and maintained communication management plans to support strategic objectives.

Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

The Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee is established under part 6 of the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*.

The advisory committee is a tripartite body formed with the primary function to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at mineral mines and quarries and persons who may be affected by mineral mining and quarrying operations. The advisory committee is an integral part of the accountability framework that is in place to manage safety and health in the industry and to ensure mine and quarry workers arrive home safe and healthy every day.

Under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*, the chair of the advisory committee must prepare an annual report on the committee's operations for the year. The report must be given to the Minister for Resources as soon as practicable, but within four months, after the end of each financial year. The Minister must table the report in the Legislative Assembly within 14 sitting days.

Membership

The advisory committee is to consist of 10 members, one of whom is the chairperson.

Members appointed to the advisory committee represent the Queensland Government, mineral mine and quarry workers, and mineral mine and quarry operators. The independent chair of the advisory committee is the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health. Members are appointed by the Minister for terms of up to three years and there is no limit to the number of terms a member can serve.

The advisory committee includes members nominated by the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, Australian Workers' Union, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia, Queensland Resources Council, and Resources Safety and Health Queensland. The Chief Inspector of Mineral Mines and Quarries is an *ex officio* member of the advisory committee.

Table 1: Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee members for 2022–23

Name	Representing	Organisation	Meetings
Kate du Preez	Independent chair	Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health	4
Jack Farry	Queensland Government	Resources Safety and Health Queensland	3
Hermann Fasching	Queensland Government	Resources Safety and Health Queensland	4
John Hempseed	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union	1
Gavin Lawrence	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Workers' Union	4
Joe Russell	Mineral mine and quarry operators	Queensland Resources Council	3
William Tangye ¹	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Workers' Union	2
Russel Wilson	Mineral mine and quarry operators	Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia	4
Maryann Wipaki	Mineral mine and quarry operators	Queensland Resources Council	4

¹ William Tangye was appointed as a member on 21 March 2023 for a term of three years after having been a substitute member.

Substitute members

Substitute members are appointed to take part in meetings of the advisory committee in place of a member from the same organisation who is unable to attend.

Table 2: Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee substitute members for 2022–23

Name	Representing	Organisation	Meetings
Des Bouchardt ²	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Workers' Union	0
Samantha Boardman ³	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union	0
Martin Brownlee	Mineral mine and quarry operators	Queensland Resources Council	0
Brian Devlin ⁴	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union	0
Fiona Murfitt	Mineral mine and quarry operators	Queensland Resources Council	0
William Tangye	Mineral mine and quarry workers	Australian Workers' Union	2

Meetings held

Under the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*, the advisory committee has an obligation to meet at least twice a year. In 2022–23, the advisory committee met four times. Members also worked out-of-session on a number of occasions during 2022–23 in order to ensure the Minister received advice in a timely manner. Advisory committee members met out-of-session five times in 2022–23.

Table 3: Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee meetings in 2022–23

Meeting number	Date	Location
76	20 September 2022	Brisbane
77	16 December 2022	Brisbane
78	4 April 2023	Brisbane
79	13 June 2023	Brisbane

² Des Bouchardt was appointed as a substitute member on 21 March 2023 for a term of three years.

³ Samantha Boardman was appointed as a substitute member on 21 March 2023 for a term of three years.

⁴ Brian Devlin resigned as a substitute member on 29 September 2022.

Functions of the advisory committee

The primary function of the advisory committee is to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at mineral mines and quarries and persons who may be affected by mineral mining and quarrying operations.

The advisory committee must discharge its primary function by periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to any person from mineral mining and quarrying operations.

The advisory committee also has the following functions:

- recognising, establishing and publishing the following competencies
 - the competencies accepted by the committee as qualifying a person to perform the tasks prescribed by regulation
 - the safety and health competencies required to perform the duties of a person under this Act
- developing a five-year strategic plan for improving the safety and health of persons at mines and persons who may be affected by mining operations
- periodically evaluating, and at least once each year updating, the five-year strategic plan
- developing action plans to achieve measurable targets set in the five-year strategic plan
- obtaining information from Resources Safety and Health Queensland to assess the fulfilment of the five-year strategic plan and the action plans
- identifying and prioritising critical risks to the safety and health of persons at mineral mines and quarries and persons who may be affected by mineral mining and quarrying operations
- providing advice to the mineral mining and quarrying industry about those risks
- providing information to the Minister about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

Five-year strategic plan

With the commencement of the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020*, the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* was amended to broaden the functions of the advisory committee. The advisory committee must develop, and periodically evaluate and update, a five-year strategic plan for improving the safety and health of persons at mines and persons who may be affected by mining operations.

The advisory committee developed its first five-year strategic plan to improve the safety and health of mineral mine and quarry workers in 2020–21.

The *Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee strategic plan 2022–27* is described in Figure 1.

Vision and mission

The strategic plan serves as a roadmap to achieve the vision of:

Safe and healthy mines and quarries, now and in the future.

To achieve this vision, the advisory committee is guided by the mission to:

Provide contemporary, evidence-based advice that focuses on making mineral mine and quarry workers safer and healthier.

Values

The advisory committee has four core values which underpin its work:

- people focussed
- robust
- collaborative
- adaptive.

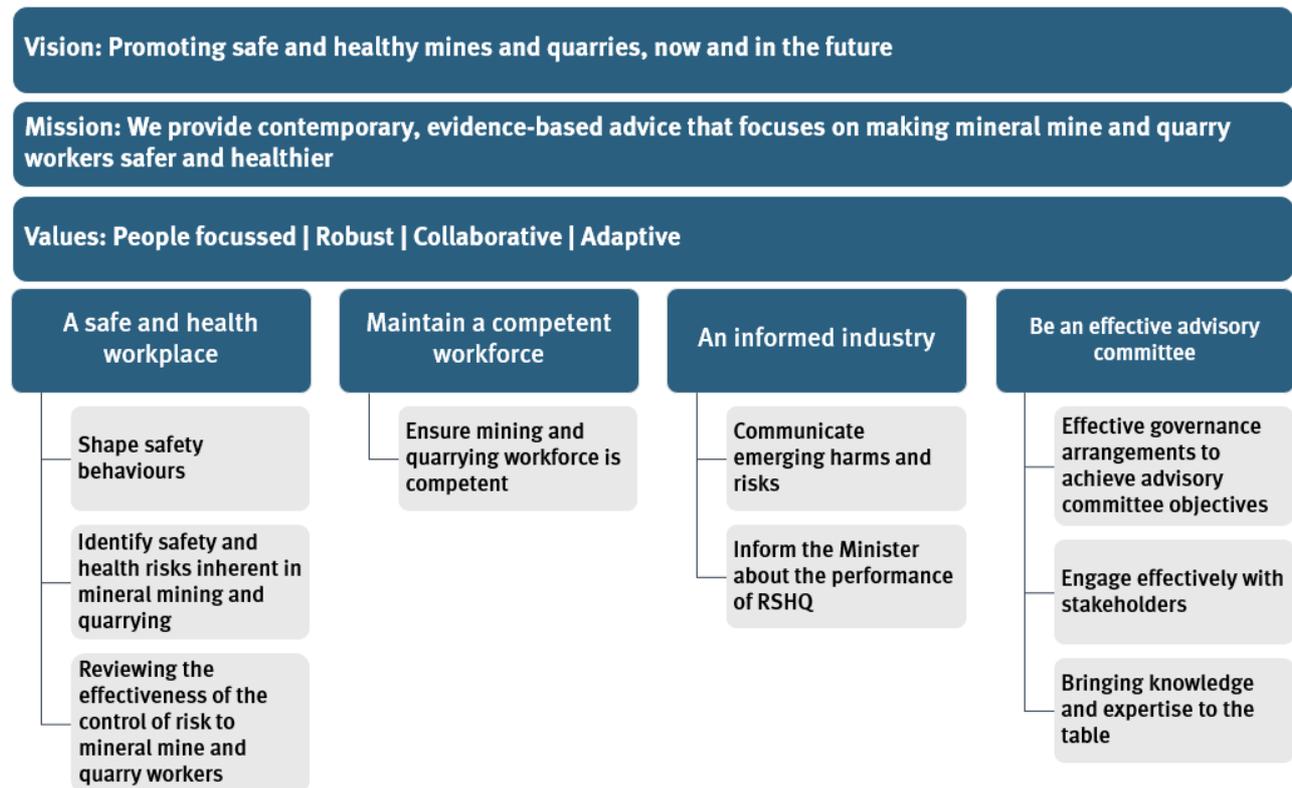


Figure 1: Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee five-year strategic plan 2022–27

Work of the advisory committee

In 2022–23, the advisory committee completed a range of projects and activities that were aligned to the four strategic objectives under the *Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee strategic plan 2022–2027*:

- a safe and healthy workplace
- a competent workforce
- an informed industry
- an effective advisory committee.

A safe and healthy workplace

The advisory committee takes an evidence-based approach to its work and analyses relevant information and data—while reflecting on the diversity of operations in the mineral mining and quarrying industry—to review, consider and discuss solutions and research. This approach enables the advisory committee to provide the Minister and industry with advice which fosters continuous improvement in safety and health for mineral mine and quarry workers.

The advisory committee’s priority strategies for achieving this objective are:

- shape safety behaviours
- identify and review safety and health risks inherent in mineral mining and quarrying
- review the effectiveness of the controls used in mineral mining and quarrying.

Safety reporting survey

In 2022–23, the advisory committee, in conjunction with the office of the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health and the Coal Mining Safety and Health

Advisory Committee, began a survey of the safety reporting culture in the coal mining, mineral mining and quarrying industries.

The survey aims to establish a baseline of the safety reporting behaviours exhibited at mine and quarry sites and identify the key opportunities and barriers to achieving a responsive and effective safety reporting culture. It will enable benchmarking of industry safety reporting culture and provide focus areas for industry and the advisory committees to target for further research and continuous improvement.

The development of the survey was informed by an advisory committee working group which was formed to provide guidance and input into the survey project.

The survey was driven by Finding 91 and Recommendation 28 of the *Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry part 2 report*:⁵

Finding 91—An extensive study undertaken by CMSHAC on reporting culture in coal mines would benefit the industry in Queensland.

Recommendation 28—As part of carrying out its functions under section 76A of the Act, CMSHAC considers including within its 5-year Strategic Plan activities that will facilitate improvements in the reporting culture in Queensland coal mines.

The survey was adapted from the *Safety Culture Survey Tool* that was developed by Safer Together as a workforce engagement tool to provide industry with information about the

⁵ https://www.coalminesinquiry.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/1621211/Queensland-Coal-Mining-Board-of-Inquiry-Part-II-Report.pdf

overall safety behaviours of frontline workers, supervisors, and managers.

It is broadly based on safety leadership characteristics defined by the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers in Report 452 *Shaping safety culture through safety leadership*.⁶

The survey questions were designed to understand a respondent's perceptions of the behaviours of members of their team, supervisors and managers in relation to safety reporting culture.

The survey was made available as either an online or paper-based survey and significant effort was made to ensure privacy and confidentiality of responses.

The survey opened on 1 June 2023 and was scheduled to run for approximately three months. A report of the survey findings is due to be published by December 2023.

The advisory committee aims to repeat the survey to encourage continuous improvement.

Application of process safety methodology

The Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry in its part 1 report made a recommendation for the industry to adopt strategies and performance measures to address process safety and personal safety separately (Recommendation 18).⁷

The Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health engaged an external resources industry safety expert to prepare a discussion paper that considered the application and relevance of process safety to the mining industry.

The purpose of the discussion paper was to support an informed discussion for the mining safety and health advisory committees and key mining stakeholders—including the Queensland Resources Council—on what adopting process safety strategies involves.

The advisory committee further engaged with the external expert to explore the application of process safety methodology in the mineral mining and quarrying industries.

The advisory committee agreed with the discussion paper conclusions that in the mineral mining and quarrying industry:

- all of the elements needed to deliver process safety strategies are present
- the legislative framework to support process safety already exists and no changes would be required
- the relevant operators and institutions need to work more closely together to implement process safety methodology
- to be effective, this cooperation needs to occur at the senior levels within these companies and institutions, as evidenced in the petroleum and gas industry via Safer Together.

Review key safety and health outcomes

The advisory committee regularly reviewed information on high potential incidents, serious accidents and airborne contaminants to identify current and emerging safety and health risks.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee received quarterly briefings from Resources Safety and Health Queensland on high potential incident

⁶ <https://www.iogp.org/bookstore/product/shaping-safety-culture-through-safety-leadership/>

⁷ (BOI Report Part 1, p.14)

and serious accident data and reviewed significant incidents that occurred in the mineral mining and quarrying industries.

The advisory committee used this information to help it identify trends and to provide advice to the Minister and industry on improvements that could be made to enhance safety and health performance in the industry.

It was particularly concerned with the number of incidents involving vehicle interactions and aimed to hold an industry vehicle interaction forum in July 2023 to address these concerns.

The advisory committee also received quarterly briefings from Resources Safety and Health Queensland on airborne contaminants data on respirable dust, respirable crystalline silica, diesel particulate matter and welding fumes. The advisory committee reviewed this data to monitor the effectiveness of controls in place to reduce risks to mineral mine and quarry workers.

Respirable crystalline silica

In March 2023, Safe Work Australia voted to reduce the eight-hour time weighted average workplace exposure standard (WES) for respirable crystalline silica from 0.05 mg/m³ to 0.02 mg/m³ with a three-year transition period. The advisory committee considered this proposal and expressed a number of concerns:

- The sensitivity of analytical equipment is not capable of accurately and consistently measuring respirable crystalline silica to that limit.
- There are technical and practical challenges to implementing effective controls.
- The proposed WES is for a 40-hour work week. However, the mining industry operates longer shifts than the prescribed

8-hour shift, which will result in an even lower WES being applied to the mining industry.

- Respiratory protective equipment will be a critical control to achieving this threshold. However, there are potential negative impacts that may arise with the increased use and duration of use of respiratory protective equipment.

The advisory committee will continue to consider the available evidence relating to respirable crystalline silica and provide advice to the Minister.

Mine dust lung disease

The advisory committee regularly engaged with the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Occupational Health Unit to provide advice to the Minister on mine dust lung disease in the mining and quarrying industry.

The advisory committee noted the number of mine dust lung disease cases reported in the mineral mining and quarrying industry is lower than the coal mining industry. However, the new respirable health surveillance testing requirements stipulated in the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 requiring all workers to be tested may increase the number of cases reported.

Workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants review

The advisory committee has continued to monitor Safe Work Australia's review of workplace exposure standards for airborne contaminants.

The advisory committee will examine the impact of any proposed changes and provide advice to the Minister.

Risk assessment education resource

The advisory committee identified the need to assist mineral mines and quarries in taking a comprehensive and consistent approach to the assessment of risks at their sites to promote better safety and health outcomes.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee developed the *Risk assessment education resource* to assist industry to improve the quality of operational risk management in the mineral mining and quarrying industry. This project aimed to improve the way in which risks are managed and how critical controls are considered and verified.

The resource provides practical advice to industry and summarises industry practice and considers risk management processes at both the site level and the task level for an identified hazard to improve the quality of operational risk management.

This resource is consistent with the *ISO 31000:2018—Risk Management* standard and helps to ensure the right information is considered in the right way when assessing and managing risk.

As vehicle interactions have consistently been one of the top hazards in the industry, the education tool provides practical examples of effective risk management for vehicle interaction in an operational context.

The Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health engaged The University of Queensland’s Sustainable Minerals Institute as a technical expert to assist the project team.

The resource was officially launched on 12 July 2023.

The advisory committee will monitor the use of the resource by mineral mining and quarrying operations to evaluate its effectiveness.

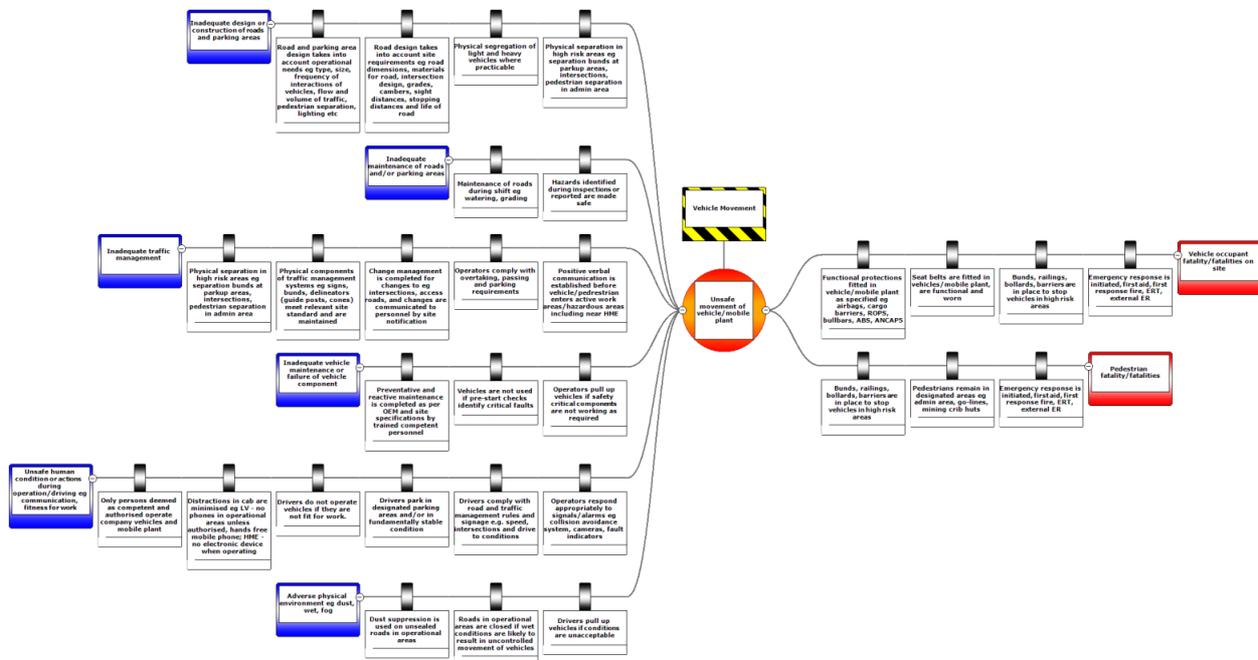


Figure 2: Example of a bow-tie analysis for vehicle interactions

Fatigue management

In its five-year strategic plan, the advisory committee identified fatigue and mental health as an area that required detailed examination through evidence-based research.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee examined a report produced by The University of Queensland for the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health which examined fatigue and fatigue management in the Queensland mining industry and its relationship with mental health and safety outcomes.

The objective of the report was to:

- identify if fatigue remains a hazard in the Queensland mining industry and the extent of fatigue as a hazard
- identify what constitutes good practice in contemporary workplace fatigue management, in mining and similar industries
- establish the current state of fatigue management practices in the Queensland mining industry and focus on any important gaps with the good practice requirements identified in the second objective
- examine the links between worker fatigue, safety and mental health outcomes
- provide a greater understanding of what the Queensland mining industry is doing well and recommend improvement opportunities.

The report established a fatigue management baseline by conducting a targeted review of current information about fatigue management from regulatory, industry, and academic sources; analysis of incident data to better understand fatigue as a hazard in Australian mining; and a gap analysis to assess the likely

effectiveness of existing fatigue management processes at a selection of mine sites.

Additional literature reviews in mining then explored the relationships between fatigue, health and safety, and mental health.

The report contained six conclusions:

- Fatigue incident data collection—It is highly likely that registered fatigue incident numbers represent under-reporting, so further work to help collect more comprehensive fatigue incident data in Queensland is advised.
- Fatigue incidents—Prioritised action plans to focus on fatigue risks for heavy vehicle drivers on surface mines during night shifts are proposed, especially during their first few shifts of the roster cycle.
- Fatigue management—It is proposed that the effectiveness of fatigue management controls should be verified, and that controls need to be regularly reviewed. Well-designed studies to evaluate the efficacy of fatigue management interventions in the mining industry are needed.
- Industry fatigue management gaps—Better monitoring of the long-term health effects of fatigue, a consideration of mental health outcomes, a greater use of fatigue detection technologies (with associated psychological safety and health support systems), and a stronger corporate emphasis of the importance of mining fatigue management are proposed.
- Mental health and fatigue—Further work by the industry in the mental health area is needed, particularly examining fatigue as a mechanism in mental health outcomes, and mental health as a potential predictor of fatigue and health and safety outcomes.

- **Mentally healthy workplaces toolkit—**
Following other states, it is proposed that a toolkit be developed by government and industry stakeholders to assist workplaces to assess psychosocial hazards and risk as they may relate to fatigue and mental health outcomes.

The advisory committee will continue to consider the findings of this report in 2023–24.

Regulatory change for reduced blood lead

The advisory committee considered and provided advice to the Minister regarding amendments to the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 which will establish new blood lead level thresholds for female and male workers, new airborne lead level thresholds at work sites and new monitoring and reporting requirements for mine operators.

Regulatory impact statement

On 12 October 2022, the Minister wrote to the advisory committee requesting advice on the *Facilitating High Reliability Organisation behaviours in Queensland's Resources Sector and Modernising Regulatory Enforcement* consultation regulatory impact statement.

The decision regulatory impact statement was released for public consultation on 30 May 2023 and the advisory committee began its initial review of the content at its meeting on 13 June 2023.

The advisory committee will provide its advice to the Minister in early 2023–24.

Proposal for work health and safety permit holders to access mine sites

In April 2023, the Minister wrote to the Chair of the advisory committee requesting advice on the feasibility of a proposal from the Electrical Trades Union to amend the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* and the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* to allow entry permit holders under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* the ability to access workshops, shutdowns and construction sites on mining leases.

The advisory committee will continue to consider the proposal and provide its advice to the Minister in 2023–24.

A competent workforce

The advisory committee has responsibility for establishing, recognising and publishing the competencies qualifying a person to perform the tasks prescribed by regulation and ensuring the Queensland mineral mining and quarrying workforce has the competencies needed to keep people safe and healthy. It achieves this by monitoring, evaluating and developing competencies.

Recognise, establish and publish competencies

In monitoring, evaluating and developing competencies, the advisory committee regularly reviews the *Competencies recognised by the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee*⁸ to ensure they remain relevant and current.

⁸ <https://www.commissioner.rshq.qld.gov.au/advisory-committees/mining-competencies/mineral-mining-quarrying-competencies>

When developing or changing a competency, the advisory committee considers the following factors:

- Is there an identified risk?
- Is there evidence of need?
- Are there alternatives?
- Can registered training organisations deliver the quality of outcomes required?

In 2022–23, the advisory committee considered the competencies for:

- site senior executives
- site safety and health representatives.

Site senior executives

The advisory committee approved changes to site senior executive competencies for surface mines, underground mines, and exploration activities.

The changes were made to:

- clarify the relevant working experience requirements to include activities that are operations as defined by the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*
- clarify education requirements
- establish necessary qualifications for site senior executives in exploration activities
- require additional competencies for blasting activities.

Site safety and health representatives

The advisory committee identified a gap in the competency requirements for site safety and health representatives and considered adding an additional competency requirement.

In 2022–23, it consulted with industry on the suitability of available training courses and whether new training needed to be developed. Further consideration and consultation will occur in 2023–24.

Review of published competencies

A project to review the published table of competencies was completed in October 2022.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee analysed the results of the review to determine if the original intent of individual competencies was being met and to assess if updates were necessary.

The advisory committee reviewed a total of six competencies that had been significantly altered since they were first established to ensure they still met the same level of competency (or better) as when they were originally established.

An informed industry

The advisory committee believes that engaging and communicating with industry about emerging issues and promoting relevant learnings from reviews of evidence-based data and research are essential parts of the roadmap towards its vision of *safe and healthy mines and quarries, now and in the future*.

It achieves this by:

- communicating emerging harms and risks
- informing the Minister about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

Communicate emerging harms and risks

The advisory committee has continued to communicate and engage with stakeholders through communication channels available to the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health and by taking advantage of the networks of members.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee continued to communicate with stakeholders through a dedicated page on the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health’s website and via the Commissioner’s LinkedIn channel.

In total, seven news articles relevant to the advisory committee were published on the Commissioner’s website and 16 articles posted on the Commissioner’s LinkedIn channel.

Performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland

In informing the Minister about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland, the advisory committee aimed to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to the Minister on the regulator’s performance.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee provided advice on a quarterly basis to the Minister about the performance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland against a number of specific characteristics that define effective regulators in high-hazard industries including:

- regulatory activity and enforcement are risk-based
- the regulator identifies and monitors trends and uses this data to direct compliance activities
- effectively communicates with duty holders, workers and other stakeholders.

Advice to the Minister was based on performance reports that were provided to the advisory committee by Resources Safety and Health Queensland.

An effective advisory committee

To achieve its vision of *safe and healthy mines and quarries, now and in the future*, the advisory committee must function effectively with clear governance arrangements and members must work together on building tripartite collaboration.

The advisory committee acknowledged the importance of ensuring effective governance arrangements are in place to maintain the advisory committee’s strategic focus and engaging effectively with stakeholders in achieving its vision.

The advisory committee also acknowledged the importance of effectively employing the knowledge and expertise of members.

Five-year strategic plan

The advisory committee updated its five-year strategic plan and action plan to ensure that it remained on track to meet its objectives.

Advisory committee members reiterated their support for the vision and mission of the advisory committee and refined the action plan to ensure that work remained on track for completion.

Engagement with stakeholders

The advisory committee has engaged with professional bodies and with external experts to ensure it is able to provide informed advice to the Minister.

This included:

- the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
- Simtars
- The University of Queensland.

Employ knowledge and expertise of members

As part of its strategy to ensure the knowledge and expertise of advisory committee members is employed effectively, the advisory committee established working groups to complete work out-of-session and to explore topics in more detail.

In 2022–23, the advisory committee established a working group to provide guidance and input into the development of the *Risk assessment education resource*.

In addition, the working group formed to support the development of the *Queensland Mining Industry Safety Reporting Culture Survey* continued to meet.

The advisory committee also engaged with external experts on the following topics to support its strategic focus:

- legal advice on the general role of statutory bodies and the specific statutory functions of the advisory committee
- legal advice on proposed legislative amendments that were put before the advisory committee for consideration.

Expenses incurred

Advisory committee members are not entitled to any remuneration other than the reimbursement of reasonable expenses and travel allowances to attend meetings.

The total expenditure incurred by the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health in 2022–23 in relation to the advisory committee was \$8366.27 including GST.

Table 4: Expenses incurred by the Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health in relation to the Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Expense	Amount
Travel and accommodation	\$6648.20
Meetings (venue hire and catering)	\$1718.07
Total	\$8366.27



Commissioner for
**Resources Safety
& Health**

