



# Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health

## Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee strategic plan 2021–26

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee is a tripartite body formed to provide advice to the Minister about safety and health in the coal mining industry.

### Vision

World leading safety and health for coal mine workers.

### Mission

We provide contemporary, evidence-based advice that focuses on making coal mine workers safe and healthy.

#### Values



**People first:** The advisory committee values people and prioritises them in all that it does.



**Evidence:** The advisory committee uses contemporary evidence to provide advice and make recommendations.



**Collaborative:** The advisory committee is respectful of different perspectives, and members work together in the best interests of coal mine workers.



**Responsive:** The advisory committee is proactive and responsive to changing industry conditions.



**Relevant:** The advisory committee listens, communicates and engages.

#### About the advisory committee

*The Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* provides for the establishment of a tripartite safety and health advisory committee to allow the coal mining industry to identify, quantify and prioritise safety and health issues facing coal mine workers. The advisory committee provides advice and information to the Minister about critical risks to safety and health in the coal mining sector, and on Resources Safety and Health Queensland's (RSHQ) performance.

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 coal mines; and periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to any person from coal mining operations.*

# Objectives and strategies

- Shaping safety behaviours
- Identifying safety and health risks inherent in coal mining
- Reviewing key safety and health outcomes
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the controls used in coal mining

- Monitoring, evaluating and developing competencies
- Considering the Brady review findings and recommendations regarding supervision
- Considering competencies for risk management for all levels



- Ensuring effective governance arrangements are in place to maintain the advisory committee's strategic focus
- Engaging effectively with stakeholders
- Ensuring the knowledge and expertise of members is employed

- Identifying harms and risks and informing the industry
- Informing the Minister about proactive best-practice safety and health activities by the industry and RSHQ
- Educating coal mine workers about the legislative framework and their obligations

## Key achievements 2021–22

### A safe and healthy workplace

- Identified emerging safety and health issues/trends by observing and reviewing relevant information and data including
  - significant accident and injury data, trends and identified audit findings as determined by RSHQ
  - airborne contaminants data
  - work program and data concerning mine lung dust disease
  - identified safety and health risks inherent in coal mining—including diesel particulate matter—as focus areas for working groups to consider and provide advice.
- Continued to address fatal and serious risks to workers by reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Brady review and Coal Mining Board of Inquiry (BOI) including
  - implementing recommendation 16 of the BOI Part 1 report
  - understanding reporting culture by collaborating with the Commissioner’s office to investigate an independent industry survey and analysis of the culture of reporting safety and health matters (finding 91 of the BOI Part 2 report)
  - considering the results of a report that examined how well the principles of high reliability organisations (HROs) are being applied in the Queensland mining industry—advisory committee members engaged directly with one of the report authors on the practicality and application of HRO theory in the diverse operations found across the coal mining industry.
- In reviewing the effectiveness of the control of risk to coal mining workers, CMSHAC endorsed the following four recognised standards
  - RS 14: Monitoring respirable dust in coal mines
  - RS 18: Heat management in underground coal mines
  - RS 22: Management structures
  - RS 23: Fluid power safety in coal mines.

### Maintain a competent workforce

- Engaged Simitars to complete a review of all competencies recognised and established by CMSHAC (283 competencies across 29 positions) to ensure they are current, and no gaps exist.
- Carried out a complete review of the competencies for working with electrical equipment in hazardous areas.
- Amended the open cut examiner competency—the addition of RIIENV301E.

### An informed industry

- Informed the Minister about emerging issues, their potential impact and proactive best-practice safety and health activities by the industry and RSHQ including
  - a proposed new WES for carbon dioxide
  - the use of steel casings in horizontal gas wells.
- Reviewed RSHQ performance report to the advisory committee to inform the Minister on RSHQ’s performance.

### Be an effective advisory committee

- Developed advisory committee charter and terms of reference
- Held a regional industry forum in Moranbah

## Minister's message

The Queensland Government is committed to improving safety and health outcomes in the coal mining industry.

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee is established under the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* to provide me with advice and recommendations about promoting and protecting the safety and health of persons at coal mines and associated coal mining operations.

From 1 July 2020, the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020* amended the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* to enhance the functions of the advisory committee, including the requirement for the advisory committee to develop and evaluate progress against a five-year strategic plan and develop action plans to achieve measurable targets.

Throughout 2020–21, the advisory committee has met to develop a strategic plan to work towards its goal of *World leading safety and health for coal mine workers*.

This strategic plan outlines the key strategies and actions the advisory committee intends to implement through to 2026 to provide me with contemporary, evidence-based advice that focuses on making coal mine workers safer and healthier.

The strategy builds on the significant work completed by the advisory committee over more than 20 years. I am fortunate to have an expert advisory committee representing coal mine operators, coal mine workers and inspectors and whose members have such considerable knowledge and experience. This tripartite participation in the development of strategies to improve safety and health in the industry has been a core principle of Queensland's mining safety and health legislation since its inception and continues to provide a significant benefit to the industry.

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee will continue to be a source of expert advice about promoting and protecting the safety and health of Queensland's coal mine workers and I look forward to working with members over the next five years to achieve its goals.



**The Hon. Scott Stewart MP**  
Minister for Resources