

NSW Mining and Petroleum Competence Board

Strategic Plan to 2026

Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013

February 2024

Foreword

The NSW Government is committed to building safer communities and safer and healthier workplaces.

The NSW Mining and Petroleum Competence Board (the Board) was established under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* to provide the Minister with advice and guidance on matters relating to work health and safety in the NSW resources industry. The Board is a tripartite board made up of representatives from the mining industry, including employer and employee representatives, the NSW Department of Regional NSW, and independent experts.

This Plan outlines the strategic direction the Board until 2026. The priorities identified in the plan have been developed to assist the Board to address important competence issues for statutory functions in NSW.

The Board has identified the following priority focus areas to work towards its goal of world-leading work health and safety. The priority areas are:

1. Monitor and review competence standards and assessment
2. Monitor and oversight of the practising certificate maintenance of competence scheme (MoC)
3. Emerging issues
4. Effective communication

I look forward to working with the Board, industry and community over the coming years to achieve these outcomes.

Courtney Houssos MLC

Minister for Finance

Minister for Natural Resources

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What is the Mining and Petroleum Competence Board?

The NSW Mining and Petroleum Competence Board (the Board) is a statutory board that advises the Minister and the NSW Resources Regulator on the:

- setting of competence standards
- standards for assessing competence
- requirements for the maintenance of competence (MoC) for exercising functions at a mine that impact on the health and safety of any person.

The Board is established under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and its supporting Regulation. The Board comprises people representing the interests of employers and employees, and officers of NSW Department of Regional NSW. It also includes independents with expertise in the development and assessment of competence standards for people performing functions at mines. The Board has an independent chair.

More information

For comprehensive information on the Board and its activities visit the webpage:

resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/safety-and-health/about-us/competence-board

Contact the Board

NSW Mining and Petroleum Competence Board

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Purpose of the strategic plan

The purpose of the strategic plan is to set out how the Board plans to improve mine safety by contributing to the development of:

- world-leading competence standards for statutory functions; and
- maintenance of competence of practising certificate holders in the NSW mining and petroleum industries.

Strategic objectives

The Board's strategic objective is to develop an efficient and effective scheme to ensure people carrying out statutory functions under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and its regulations are competent to carry out those roles to best practice WHS and engineering standards.

To achieve this, the Board will focus on four areas to 2026:

1. Monitor and review competence standards and assessment
2. Monitor and oversight of MoC
3. Emerging issues
4. Effective communication.

1. Monitor and review competence standards and assessment for statutory functions

There are existing competence standards within an established competence framework for statutory functions requiring certificates of competence. Competence standards need to be monitored and revised in response to emerging issues to ensure safety standards are maintained. This is further addressed in Strategy 3.

The Board advises the Resources Regulator on updating the competence standards for statutory functions requiring certificates of competence and the standards that should apply in the processes to assess applicants.

This strategy will enable the competence standards for statutory functions to remain up to date, relevant, and world leading so people conducting these functions are competent and support safe mining and petroleum operations.

Strategies

- monitor the competence framework to ensure alignment with other jurisdictions where practical
- review the quality of the assessment process for certificates of competence
- identify opportunities to improve the assessment process in collaboration with examination panels
- identify emerging industry trends/issues that may affect competence standards for statutory functions and provide advice to the Minister and Resources Regulator.

2. Monitoring and oversight of the practising certificate maintenance of competence scheme

Practising certificates are required by people to exercise the statutory function prescribed under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and its regulations. A key condition of a practising certificate is to maintain competence. The Board will advise on the implementation of the maintenance of competence scheme (MoC scheme) and performance of certificate holders in fulfilling their maintenance of competence obligations.

Strategies

- identify the data and information that is required to enable the Board to make decisions that enable effective monitoring of the MoC scheme
- monitor and review the MoC scheme auditing process
- evaluate the MoC scheme learning requirements to be fit for purpose
- review the MoC scheme to ensure it aligns with the competence framework.

3. Emerging issues for statutory functions

The scheme for the statutory functions competency framework needs to be responsive to industry changes, as mine operators seek to be more productive and safer. These changes need to be identified and the impact on the competencies of statutory functions considered.

Strategies

The Board will:

- review the statutory functions competence standards in response to global and local emerging issues to enable the competence standards to maintain their currency
- provide advice to the Minister and Resources Regulator on proactive steps to respond appropriately so individuals carrying out statutory functions remain competent.

4. Effective communication

The Board communicates with industry stakeholders through multiple means to create a dialogue with industry stakeholders and practising certificate holders. The Board will develop a new communication strategy to implement the strategic plan and embed routine communication into its charter.

Strategies

The Board will:

- engage industry stakeholders to promote the role and work of the Board and to canvass their views on contemporary and emerging issues
- review the Board's Charter to embed communication with industry stakeholders into business as usual
- review the Board's communication plan to promote visibility and strategic intent of the Board
- provide an annual report to the Minister.

Review

The Board will review the implementation of this strategic plan on a regular basis and provide advice on any amendments required.

Measures of success may include:

- a review of the certificate of competence assessment process and survey of examiners has been undertaken
- a fit for purpose Charter for the Board is in place
- the competence framework and MoC scheme alignment has been reviewed
- emerging issues have been considered within agreed timeframes
- the evaluation of the MoC scheme requirements has been undertaken
- strategic communication plan implemented.