



Department
of Industry
Resources & Energy

Mine Safety

Mining Competence Board

Annual Report for 2014/15



The NSW Mining Competence Board 2014/15 members.



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Mining Competence Board Annual Report 2014/15

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More information

Mining Competence Board

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/safety

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (February 2016). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.

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What is the NSW Mining Competence Board?

The NSW Mining Competence Board (the board) is a statutory board that advises the Minister for Resources and Energy and the mine safety regulator on the:

- setting of competence standards
- standards for assessing competence
- requirements for the maintenance of competence

for exercising functions at a mine that impact on the health and safety of any person.

It is established under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014*.

The board comprises people representing the interests of employers and employees, officers of NSW Department of Industry (the department) and independents with expertise in the development and assessment of competence standards for people performing functions at mines. The board is chaired by an independent chairperson.

Vision

To improve mine safety by contributing to the development of world-leading competence standards in the NSW mining and extractive industries.

Objectives

The board aims to ensure the competence of people performing safety critical roles in NSW mining operations, as part of an overall strategy to improve mine safety performance by:

- maintaining a strategic focus on significant competence issues
- undertaking consultation with all relevant stakeholders when progressing competence matters
- ensuring processes are put in place to quickly identify emerging issues and respond accordingly
- liaising with other jurisdictions, with an aim to promote consistency in competence standards
- ensuring that all key stakeholders have access to consistent and accurate information regarding competence standards.

How can I find out more information?

For comprehensive information on the board and its activities, see the webpage:

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/about-us/mining-competence-board

The role of the mine safety regulator

The Secretary of the department, as the mine safety regulator, takes advice from the board on how to carry out its functions under the WHS (Mines) legislation to:

- determine the requirements for certificates of competence and conduct examinations
- administer the issuing of certificates of competence and practising certificates, including requirements to maintain competence.

How can I contact the board?

Mining Competence Board c/- NSW Department of Industry
PO Box 344
Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310
Ph: 02 4931 6636 Email: mcb.secretariat@industry.nsw.gov.au

Introduction

The Mining Competence Board (the board) was established in in 2014 following the introduction of the *Work Health and Safety (Mines) Act 2013* (the Act). The board is subject to the control and direction of the Minister for Resources and Energy. Section 68 of the Act requires the board to provide an annual report within 6 months of 30 June of its activities during the preceding year. The board replaced the Coal Competence Board and the Metalliferous and Extractives Competence Board.

This is the board's first annual report and covers activities between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015. The board met on two occasions, it first meet on 13 October 2014 and then on 10 June 2015 when it conducted a strategic planning session.

Functions of the board

The board has the following functions (s 67(1) of the Act):

- a) to oversee the development of competence standards for persons exercising functions at a mine that may impact on the health and safety of any person,
- b) to undertake initial and ongoing assessments of the competence of persons exercising any such function,
- c) to advise the minister on matters related to the competence required of persons to exercise any such function.

Membership of the board

In addition to the chairman there are three employer representative, nominees of the NSW Minerals Council (1 coal and 1 metalliferous) and Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia, three employee representatives, nominees of the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division and Australian Workers Union and two representatives of the NSW Department of Industry.

The members of the board are listed below;

Mr Bryan Davis, Independent Chairperson

Mr Mick Carney, NSW Minerals Council (coal)

Mr Nicholas Strong, NSW Minerals Council (metals)

Ms Leanne Parker, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia

Mr Andy Honeysett, CFMEU Mining and Energy Division

Mr Keith Shaw, CFMEU Mining and Energy Division

Mr Glenn Seton, Australian Workers Union

Mr Robert Regan, NSW Department of Industry (Mr Regan retired at the end of the reporting year)

Ms Jennifer Nash, NSW Department of Industry

Terms of reference

The board developed a Charter of Operations and Conduct and agreed on the Terms of Reference below:

- overseeing the development of competence standards
- overseeing the assessment and examination process for the issuing of certificates of competence
- overseeing requirements for the maintenance of competence, and
- providing advice to the minister on matters related to competence requirements.

Identified priorities and vision

At the strategic planning session the board agreed on a vision to develop an efficient and effective scheme to ensure people carrying out statutory functions under work health and safety (WHS) laws are competent to carry out those roles to best practice WHS and engineering standards.

To achieve the vision the board has identified the following priorities to 2020:

1. Develop world-leading competence standards for statutory functions requiring certificates of competence.
2. Develop a scheme for practising certificates.
3. Identify and address emerging issues for statutory functions involving certificates of competence.
4. Develop and implement a collaborative communication strategy.

Implementing actions in these priority areas will contribute to achieving the department's Resources & Energy goal of safe and sustainable management of resources for the economic benefit of NSW, with operations at best practice health, safety and engineering standards.

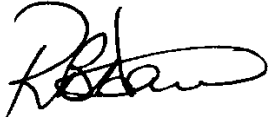
Activities of the board in the preceding year

- After reviewing the activities of the previous Coal and Metalliferous & Extractives Boards the Mining Competence Board has recommended that all Certificates of Competence must have as a prerequisite of an the appropriate Emergency Management and First Aid unit of competence.
- Completion of a planning session in June 2015 to identify the strategic direction for the board.
- Consideration of competence requirements for the new statutory function of "Underground Supervisor" in underground mines other than coal.
- The board commenced evaluating the usefulness of associated non-technical skills as part the competence standards for certificates of competence.
- The board agreed to review the proposed New Zealand model for the maintenance of competence for practising certificate holders.
- The chairman participated in the department's Metalliferous Industry Safety Advisory Committee meeting in May 2015

- Discussed possible interactions with the Mine Safety Advisory Council and the proposed Australasian Mining Competence Advisory Council.

The board is working to ensure that all parties involved in the delivery of competence standards for statutory functions in NSW are consulted. The board is establishing cooperative arrangements with all stakeholders that will provide a strong foundation for it to achieve its objectives. The result will be improved competence of people to work safely in the NSW mining and extractives industry.

Minister I am pleased to present to you the first annual report of the NSW Mining Competence Board.



Bryan Davis
Chair
Mining Competence Board