



Planning &
Environment
Resources Regulator

NSW Resources Regulator

Monthly business activity
report: August 2017

Vision

**A safe and
responsible mining,
extractive and
petroleum industry**

Mission

**To enable and
support industry
to understand and
fulfil its obligations**

Key activities

In August the Resources Regulator released its compliance monitoring priorities and a new series of compliance workshops for the rest of 2017, including the mining sectors selected for inspections. For the next six months we will be looking closely at issues such as emergency planning, illegal mining, airborne contaminants, gas outburst hazards, fire and explosion risks, and the storage and handling of hazardous chemicals. Officers will be monitoring in the field and undertaking both announced and unannounced inspections at mine sites.

The regulator continued its targeted regulatory intervention at South32's Appin colliery with production activities remaining prohibited. In response, South 32 supplied a detailed restart plan to the regulator, which identified immediate, medium and long-term actions to resume mining operations. On the completion of the short-term actions the regulator has indicated that limited mining operations will be permitted to be resumed

The regulator cancelled mining leases ML56, ML57 and ML620 of Bourke mining operation, Far Western Stone Quarries, with all work to cease at the site by November 17. The only work that can take place at the mine until November 17 is the removal of existing stockpiles and rehabilitation of the site.

Prosecution proceedings were also commenced against Newcrest Mining Limited. The court action is related to an alleged contravention of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* that resulted in the death of a worker at the Ridgeway Mine, 20 kilometres south of Orange.

The regulator also commenced an investigation into an incident at the Mt Arthur coal mine at Muswellbrook, where a worker suffered serious burns while refuelling diesel powered plant known as a tyre handler.

Two causal investigations were commenced – the first being into a catastrophic diesel engine system failure at Wongawilli underground coal mine, near Wollongong, and the second being into an incident at Ulan West Operations underground coal mine near Mudgee, in which seven coal mine workers sustained minor injuries during a conveyor extension.



NSW Planning and Environment has taken all care to ensure the accuracy, completeness and reliability of the information provided in this report. Nothing in this report impacts any duties held by any person under legislation administered or enforced by the department. Compliance with the legislation is a legal requirement. Some persons may have a right of internal or external review of decisions made under the legislation administered or enforced by the department.

Activities

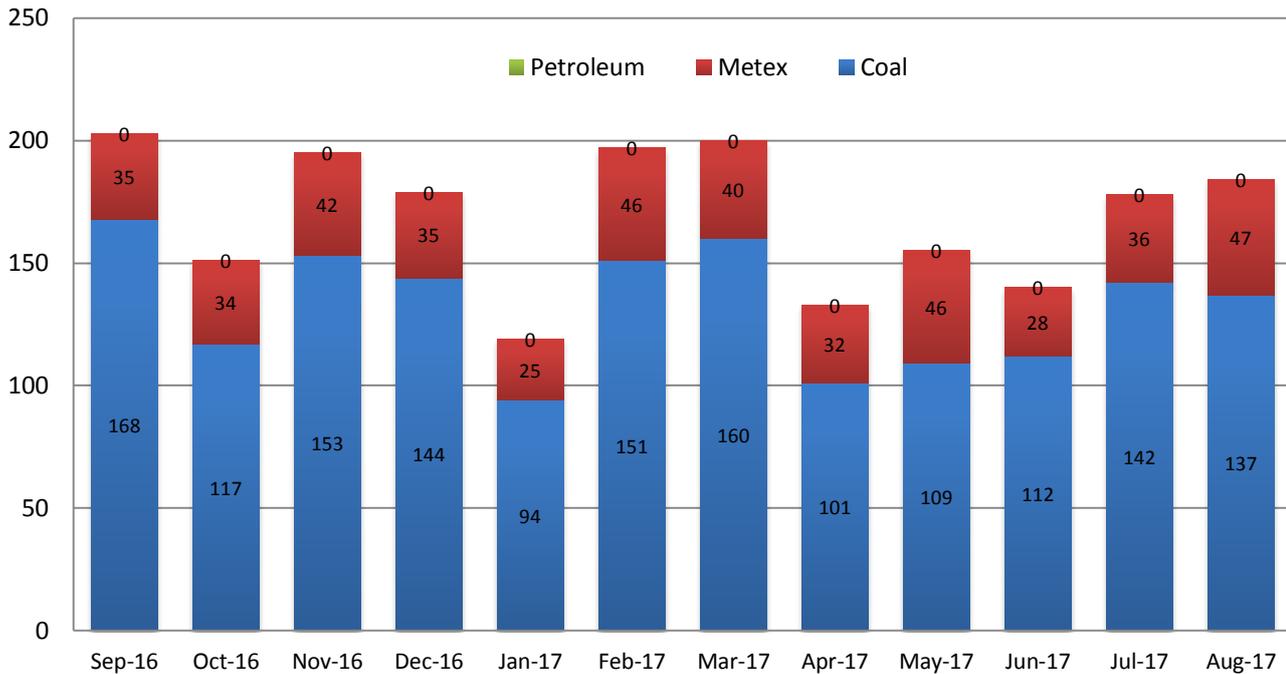
Below is a snapshot of the NSW Resources Regulator's activities for August 2017.



Incidents

Incident classifications and weekly incident summaries are available on our [website](#).

Chart 1: Incidents notified to the Resources Regulator by sector.



Inspections, audits and targeted assessments

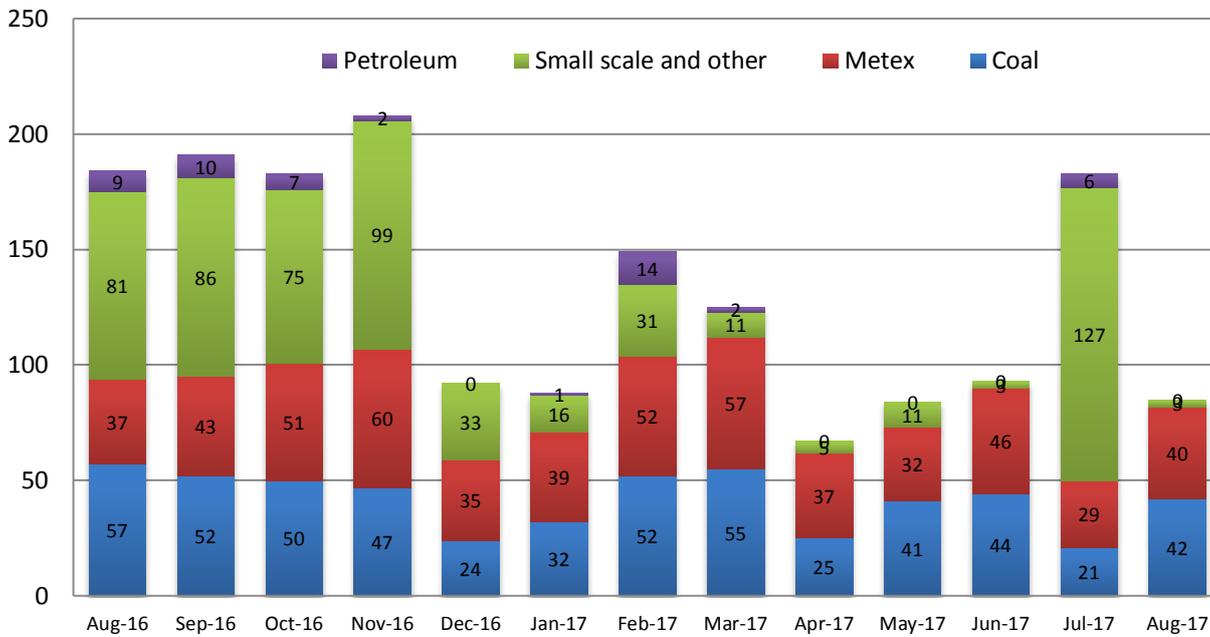
Reports on our compliance activities are available on our [website](#).

Targeted assessments undertaken in August 2017

Mine	Type	Topic
Chain Valley Colliery	Site assessment	Respirable dust
Integra Underground	Site assessment	Respirable dust
Hera Mine	Site assessment	Airborne contaminants

Safety inspections

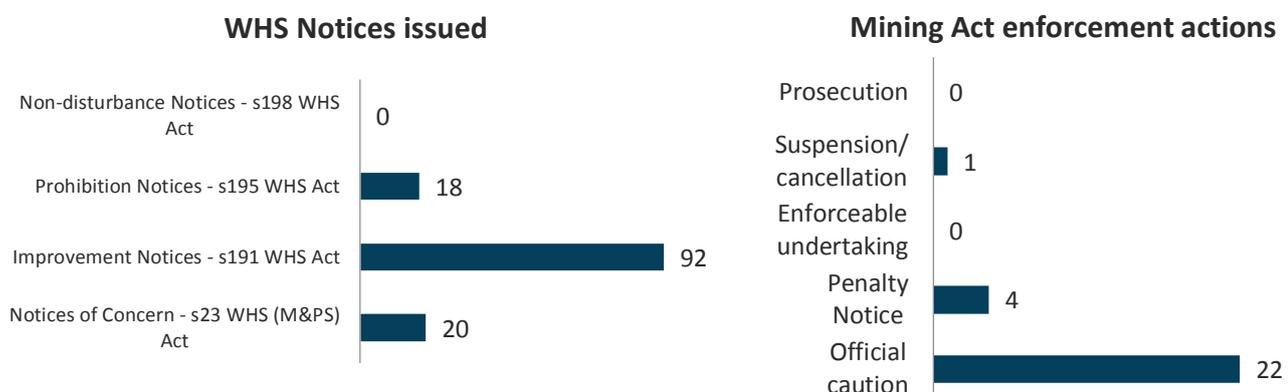
Chart 2: Safety inspections carried out by the Resources Regulator by sector.



Enforcement actions

Our [Compliance and enforcement approach](#) is available on our website.

Chart 3: WHS notices issued and Mining Act enforcement actions taken in August.

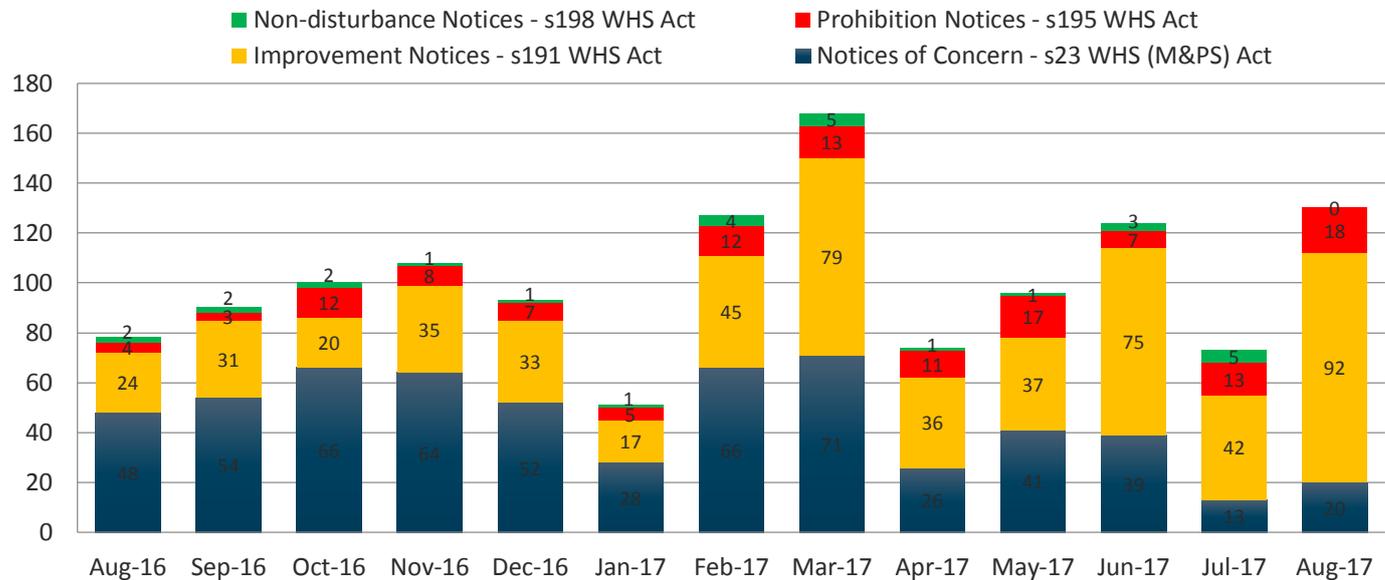


Prohibition notices issued in August (WHS legislation)

PCBU	Mine	Details	Prohibited activity
Rio Tinto Coal (NSW) Pty Ltd	Howick CHPP	A CHPP structural integrity planned inspection identified issues with absent or inadequate conveyor or pulley guarding on conveyors.	Operation of conveyors 164, 167, 261 and 564 are prohibited until rectification of the conveyor pulleys is undertaken.
Dendrobium Coal Pty Ltd	Dendrobium Colliery	A desktop assessment of Dendrobium's risk assessment and procedures for single entry identified a blocked ventilation circuit.	Entry of persons into the Area 3B Bleeder roadway is prohibited until the ventilation is restored.
Cabonne Council	Molong Limestone Quarry	A follow-up inspection to review high wall issues was carried out at the site. Ground and strata concerns were identified on the western face on level 1.	Entry of equipment for the removing of blasted material within 10m of the western face on level 1 is prohibited until the catch benches have been re-established.
Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd	Holcim - Albion Park Quarry	An investigation was undertaken into the cause of a catastrophic failure of a loader arm at its pivot point. The failure caused the arm and bucket to fall to the ground and the operator suffered a significant jolt.	All loaders at the site which are older than five years must not be used until a competent person has assessed that the loaders are safe for use.
NSW Quarry Services Pty Ltd	Bates Quarry	Following the receipt of a complaint that mobile plant at the site may have safety deficiencies, an investigation was carried out and mobile equipment inspected.	The use of the Hyundai front end loader (no. 506) is prohibited until the park brake is rectified and safety critical items inspected as safe.

WHS notices

Chart 4: WHS notices issued by the Resources Regulator.

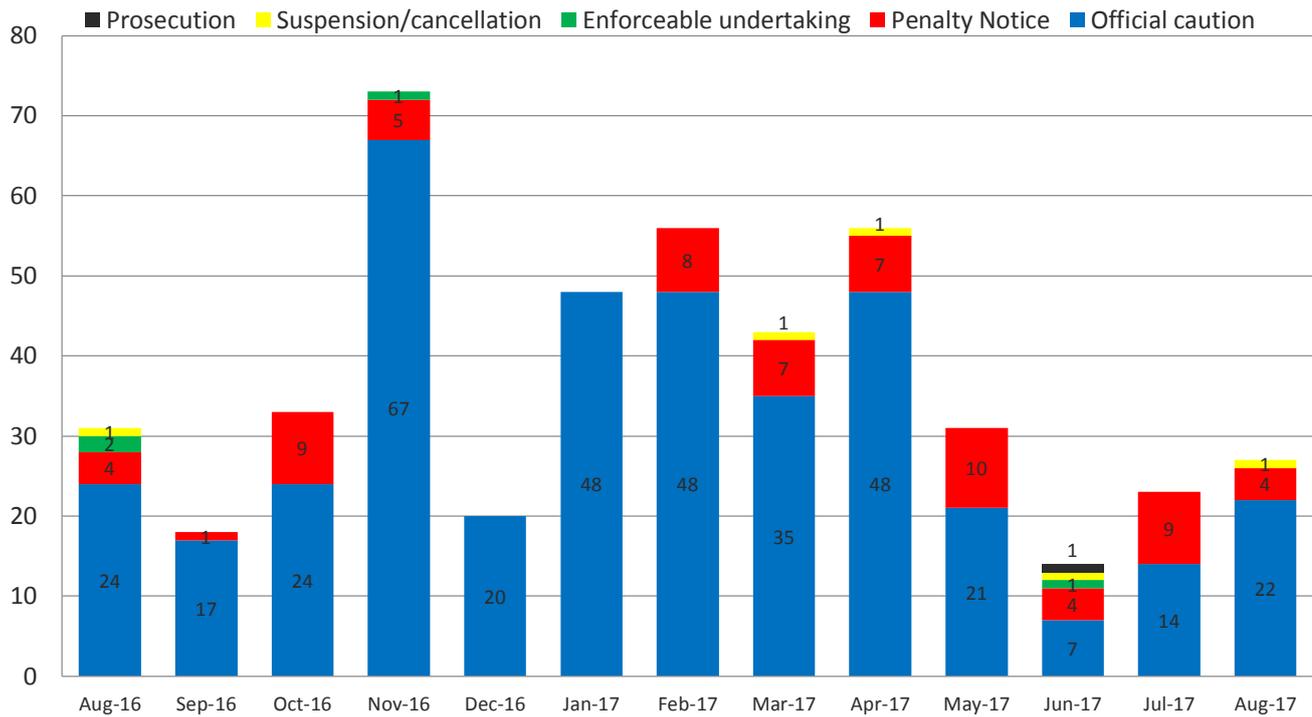


Penalty notices issued and other significant actions taken in August (Mining Act)

Date	Status	Actions	Details
17 August	Far Western Stone Quarries - ML56, ML57 and ML620	Cancellation of titles	Cancellation of titles on 17 August 2017 - to take effect on 17 November 2017.
22 August	ML613	Penalty notice - \$1250	Fail to provide Mine Operations Plan
22 August	ML613	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to comply with direction issued under s 240 of the Mining Act
22 August	ELA5454	Penalty notice - \$1250	Provided (recklessly) false information in a personal probity form
28 August	MC20479	Penalty notice - \$2500	Fail to comply with direction issued s240C -of the Mining Act

Enforcement actions under the Mining Act

Chart 5: Enforcement action taken by the regulator under the Mining Act.



Statutory notifications and exemptions

Information about WHS statutory [notifications](#) and [exemptions](#) are available on our website.

High risk activity notifications received

Mine	WHS (M&PS) Regs provision	Activity
Appin Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 18	Mining in outburst control zones
Appin Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 11	Conduct of hot work in a hazardous zone
Ashton Coal Mine (Underground)	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Ashton Coal Mine (Underground)	Schedule 3, Clause 20(3)(a)	Use of explosives designed for use in coal mines
Austar Coal Mine - Underground Operations	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Austar Coal Mine - Underground Operations	Schedule 3, Clause 10	Sealing
Bulga Underground Operations	Schedule 3, Clause 10	Sealing
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 12	Driving underground roadway that is wider than 5.5 metres
Chain Valley Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 9	Shotfiring
Clarence Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Dendrobium Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 12	Driving underground roadway that is wider than 5.5 metres
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Mandalong Mine	Schedule 3, Clause 10	Sealing
Metropolitan Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 18	Mining in outburst control zones
Moolarben Coal Operations - Underground	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
Narrabri Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 18	Mining in outburst control zones

Mine	WHS (M&PS) Regs provision	Activity
Narrabri Colliery	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
North Wambo Underground	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres
PEL0002 Joe Stanley 1	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0002 Joe Stanley 3	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0002 Joe Stanley 4	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0002 Lipscome 1	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0002 Rosalind Park 10	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0002 Rosalind Park 12	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PEL0238 Bibblewindi 10	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
PEL0238 Bibblewindi 7	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
PEL0238 Bibblewindi 8	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
PEL0238 Bibblewindi 9	Schedule 3, Clause 33	Suspending a well
PPL0004 Elizabeth Macarthur 16	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PPL0004 Glenlee 16	Schedule 3, Clause 32	Decommissioning a well
PPL0004 Menangle Park 22	Schedule 3, Clause 31	Well workover
PPL0005 Menangle Park 10	Schedule 3, Clause 31	Well workover
Springvale Mine Underground Operations	Schedule 3, Clause 13	Widening underground roadway to more than 5.5 metres

Exemptions granted

Mine/PCBU	Status	Details
Dendrobium Colliery	Received	Temporary exemption to have less than two exits to the surface – to access the longwall maingate inbye the last cut-through.
Ulan West Operations	Received	To power non-explosion protected equipment for LW4 for the period of longwall installation.
Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd	Received	Exemption for design registration of bulk coal winder.

Workshops and education activities

Details of upcoming events are available on our [website](#).

Date	What	Where	Details
2 August	Information session	Thornton	Briefing session delivered to candidates for Deputy underground coal mine examination.
3 August	Information session	Lithgow	Briefing session delivered to candidates for Deputy underground coal mine examination.
3 August	Examination	Total	Quarry Manager examination held.
4 August	Information session	Wollongong	Briefing session delivered to candidates for Deputy underground coal mine examination.
4 August	Examination	Orange	Mining engineering manager underground mines (other than coal mines) written and oral examinations held.
4 August	Examination	Orange	Mining Engineering Managers (non-coal mines) written and oral examinations.
10 August	Emergency Planning and information forum	Narrabri Fire Control Centre	Emergency Planning and bushfire pre-seasons preparations with NSW Rural Fire Service
10 August	Examination	Maitland	Open cut examiner coal mines (other than underground mines) oral examination held.
11 August	Examination	Maitland	Mining engineering manager coal mines (other than underground mines) oral examination held.
8-10 and 16-17 August	Information sessions	Cobar area	Mining inspector delivered briefing session to candidates for upcoming underground supervisor oral examination.

14-16 August	Training	Tocal	Safety and health representative training delivered.
21-23 August	Information session	Broken Hill	Mining inspector delivered briefing session to candidates for upcoming underground supervisor oral examination.
21-22 August	Emergency Planning and information forum	Bulga Rural Fire Service Operations Centre (Hunter Valley)	Assisted coordinating and delivering pre-season safety and fire planning briefing with NSW RFS and mining companies in Hunter Valley region, looking at fire mitigation and management plans, RFS requirements and site emergency arrangements. Two sessions run on consecutive days (afternoon and morning) to maximise mine availability.
23 August	Information Session	Thornton	Maintenance of competency scheme presented to Electrical Engineers northern region.
24 August	Information Session	Penrith	Maintenance of competency scheme presented to Electrical Engineers southern region.
24 August	Examination	Maitland	Electrical engineering manager underground coal mines oral examination held.
24-25 August	Training	Wollongong	Safety and health representative training delivered.
25 August	Examination	Maitland	Electrical engineer coal mines (other than underground) examination held.
25 August	Industry Engagement	Maitland	Meeting with members of Engineers Australia to present the maintenance of competency scheme for mechanical and electrical engineers.
29 August	Information session	Newstan Colliery	Meeting with Centennial Coal to provide guidance for electrical engineering managers to comply with the maintenance of competencies scheme.

Publications and alerts

Our [public comment policy](#) is available on our website.

Date	Details
2 August	NSW Resources Regulator monitoring mines
3 August	Mine Safety News: Resources Regulator compliance priorities
4 August	Mine Safety News: Electrical Engineering Safety Seminar – Seeking presenters
9 August	Mine Safety Update: Launch of practising certificates, Mechanical engineering safety seminar early bird offer, Seeking classification system service provider
11 August	Mine Safety Update: Targeted assessment reports – fatigue management practices and emergency management. Investigation information release
11 August	Weekly incident summary
17 August	Media release: Mining allowed to resume at Appin Colliery
17 August	Weekly incident summary
22 August	Media release: Far Western Stone Quarry licence cancelled
23 August	Investigation Information Release: Worker suffers serious burns when fuel ignites
24 August	Weekly incident summary
25 August	Mine Safety News: Causal investigation preliminary report
29 August	Media release: incident at underground mine near Mudgee
30 August	Media release: Resources Regulator announces prosecution proceedings against Newcrest Mining Limited
31 August	Weekly incident summary
31 August	Mine Safety News: causal investigation – underground conveyor equipment incident places workers at serious risk