

NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council

Information pack independent chairperson

Background

The NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC) was established in 1998 in response to inquiries into mine safety following several serious incidents in the NSW mining industry during the 1990s. These inquiries were the *1997 Mine Safety Review* by Susan Johnston and the *Gretley Inquiry* by Justice Staunton that reported in 1998. The council was further strengthened following the *Wran Mine Safety Review* in 2005.

MSAC is formally established under *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and includes representation from peak industry and employee organisations.

MSAC's purpose is to foster an industry with safety and health as a core value, and to provide advice to the Minister for Resources on strategic safety and health policy and any other matters relating to health and safety in the NSW mining and extractives industry.

The MSAC constitution can be found on the Resources Regulator website at:
www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/about-us/advisory-council

Role of the MSAC Chairperson

The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of MSAC. The chairperson has the same right to raise issues for discussion and contribute to meeting agendas as the other members.

The chairperson's general responsibilities include:

- ensuring that the MSAC performs its functions, acts within its statutory powers, and complies with legal obligations and policies
- facilitating the conduct of meetings, including the preparation of an agenda, to allow frank and open discussion
- facilitating the flow of information to members and stakeholders
- liaising with the relevant ministers and departmental representatives.

Attributes of the MSAC Chairperson

The MSAC chairperson should be independent of mining industry stakeholders. It is not essential to have WHS or mining industry experience, although it would be beneficial. The MSAC chairperson may receive annual remuneration. Attributes of the chairperson would include:

- a highly developed capacity for analytical and critical thinking
- extensive experience in leading negotiations between diverse groups
- ability to gain consensus on acceptable collaborative approaches
- ability to provide high level advice to the Minister
- extensive experience in convening meetings at a senior level
- ability to act as a high-level advocate for council initiatives
- ability to represent the council at events in NSW and nationally

- ability to treat sensitive information appropriately and ethically

Members of MSAC are committed to the standards and principles outlined in the code of conduct and must disclose interests, which include positions and pecuniary interests in corporations, partnerships or other businesses that may be relevant to the activities of the council.

Organisations represented on MSAC

There are equal numbers of employer and worker representatives on MSAC. The composition is as follows:

- Chairperson (Independent)
- NSW Minerals Council (coal representative)
- NSW Minerals Council (metals representative)
- Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia (NSW Branch)
- CFMEU – Mining and Energy Division
- Australian Workers Union (Greater NSW Branch)
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Independent WHS experts (currently 2 members)

MSAC issues

Recent MSAC issues include:

- Incident prevention (Fatalities Review)
- Learning from mining disasters
- Respirable dust (coal dust and crystalline silica)
- Human and organisational factors
- Diesel exhaust emissions
- Worker fatigue
- Causal investigations.

The collaborative process through MSAC, in keeping the industry world-leading WHS vision, ensures that all stakeholder perspectives including the department, employers and workers, are known and understood.

NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council

Terms of reference

- To establish strategic safety and health direction and goals.
- To analyse and review the safety performance of the industry and to provide information to stakeholders so that safety performance can be improved.
- To provide leadership to the mining industry to develop safe and healthy workplaces within a framework of co-operation, and sets the strategic direction for the industry in developing competent people.
- Advances a legislative framework which leads to safe mining practice and national standards.
- To interact with the safety advisory committees to enable them to lead their industry sectors, and to inform the work of the council.

Expressions of interest in appointment as Chairperson of the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council

Expressions of interest are sought from suitably qualified people to be considered for appointment as the independent chairperson of the NSW Mine Safety Advisory council. The chairperson and members of the council are appointed by the Minister for Resources under the *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013*. The council meets four times year.

The council's function is to provide advice to the Minister for Resources on matters relating to health and safety in the NSW mining and extractives industry. The council membership is made up of high level stakeholders representing employers and workers within the industry. The chairperson is supported by independent WHS experts who are members of the council and secretarial services provided by the NSW Resources Regulator. From time to time the council establishes subordinate working parties which may be convened by the chairperson.

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An information package is available at:

<https://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/safety-and-health/about-us/advisory-council>

How to express interest

Expressions of interest (no more than two (2) pages) outlining relevant experience along with a short CV should be emailed to anna.ormerod@planning.nsw.gov.au

Applications close on 5pm Friday 31 August 2018

Enquiries and expressions of interest will be treated with confidence.

The Department of Planning and Environment is an equal opportunity employer and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be prepared to undergo a probity review that will include a police check.