

Fatality

Incident date: 17 January 2018

Event: Fatality at open cut coal mine

Location: Glendell Open Cut Mine, Ravensworth NSW

Overview

A worker was driving an articulated dump truck as part of rehabilitation activities at the mine. After being loaded with topsoil, the dump truck was seen to veer off the haul road and come to a stop about 250 metres away. The driver was found unresponsive and died despite efforts of his co-workers and ambulance officers to resuscitate him.

Photograph 1: Final position of articulated dump truck.



The mine

Glendell Open Cut is at Ravensworth, in the Upper Hunter Valley, about 25 km northwest of Singleton, NSW.

Glendell Open Cut is owned and managed by Mt Owen Pty Limited on behalf of Glencore Coal Australia Pty Limited (Glencore).

The incident

The worker, aged 39, was employed by a contractor.

The worker was operating an articulated dump truck to move topsoil as part of regeneration works at the mine.

After being loaded with topsoil, nearby co-workers observed the dump truck veer off the haul road and cross a contour drain. The dump truck continued a further 250 metres across rehabilitated land before coming to a stop.

The co-workers rushed to the scene and found the worker unresponsive in the dump truck cabin.

Attempts to resuscitate the worker were unsuccessful.

The investigation

NSW Police and the NSW Ambulance Service responded to the incident.

The Resources Regulator also responded and has commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The regulator is investigating whether the death was workplace-related.

The mine operator and contracting company are cooperating with the investigation.

An investigation report will be prepared for the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment and the NSW Coroner.

The cause of death is being considered by the NSW Coroner.

Safety observations

Mine and petroleum site operators are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013* and Regulations.

Mine operators should have effective health assessment programs in place to ensure workers are healthy and fit to work at mining operations and in mine environments. Regular medical examinations should be undertaken by qualified medical practitioners.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking should provide information to workers about healthy lifestyles and fitness-for-work programs.

Further information

- Health management: [Health management overview](#)
- Health control plan fact sheet: [Effective controls to ensure fitness for work](#)

About this information release

The Resources Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a fatality in the mining industry. Investigations are ongoing and further information may be published as it becomes available.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Planning and Environment or the user's independent adviser. All photographs were taken by the Resources Regulator.

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- learn more about our work on major investigations and emergency response
- view our publications on other major investigations
- find your local mine safety office, where you can contact our team of mine safety inspectors.

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