



## COMMUNIQUE

4 December 2024

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### **Compliance and Regulation System (CARS) Transformation Project**

The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's (DEMIRS) Compliance and Regulation System (CARS) will replace two existing compliance and regulatory systems. The existing systems will be replaced with a modern, fit for purpose, cloud-based solution, transforming the way WorkSafe regulates across all industries including, mining, petroleum, and geothermal energy.

CARS is being implemented through the CARS transformation project to streamline business processes across WorkSafe. This will result in greater transparency and improved business intelligence and reporting, and support reduced timeframes for investigations, prosecution, and enforcement, and lodgement and processing.

Proof of concept will commence in early 2025, and if successful, a phased implementation of CARS will begin in the latter half of 2025.

### **Managing the risks of working in heat**

Heat risks in the Australian workplaces are becoming increasingly prevalent as the impacts of climate change become more frequent. The nature and location of mining and petroleum activities presents potentially severe risks to workers being exposed to heat.

MAPAC agreed on the importance of robust guidance to manage the risks of working in heat. Guidance should include:

- Impact of climate change.
- Current practices by industry to manage heat risks.
- Importance of hazard identification versus training.
- New research around hydration and exposure to hot working environments.
- Greater worker autonomy around work design and behaviours supported by the PCBU, supervisors and fellow workers.
- Increased awareness of risks associated with working in heat, tools available, need for risk assessments, and appropriately trained responders.
- Commitment of industry to plan staff resourcing to manage worker exposure to heat.

Guidance should also address the dangers of extreme environments, cultural practices, new arrivals to work extreme environments, and job design, and how new and emerging technologies may be applied.

### **Mine Safety Inspection Levy and Petroleum and Geothermal Safety levies**

An update on the Mine Safety Inspection Levy and Petroleum and Geothermal Safety levies was provided for the 2023-24 period.

The levies are collected from mining and petroleum operations to maintain safety regulatory services and acquire additional resources.

Funds collected from the levies are used for mine, petroleum and geothermal safety activities, held in a special purpose account in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*. Levy rates are set by Government and announced as part of the Budget cycle.

MAPAC noted details on the collection and expenditure of the levies is reported each year in the DEMIRS Annual Report.

[Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety 2023-24 Annual Report](#)

MAPAC acknowledged the significant funds invested into the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) program and this commitment had been worthwhile.

### **MAPAC Publication priority list**

WorkSafe provided an update on the current publication priority list. MAPAC agreed the publication priority list will become a standing item with regular updates provided by WorkSafe.

### **Feedback on the Accommodation Code of practice**

MAPAC sought further updates on member feedback provided on the initial scoping of the Code, and the need to prioritise its development.

MAPAC was advised that the Work Health and Safety Commission (WHSC) had agreed that the Chair and WorkSafe Commissioner will meet shortly to progress the Code.

### **Feedback on use of earthmoving equipment as a crane**

MAPAC considered SafeWork Australia's request to delay the transition periods. MAPAC did not support the request, with the preferred approach being to allow exemptions in the regulation for operators who have completed the training course (to be developed).

MAPAC were advised that the WHSC did not support the delay of the transition period for Items 14A and 15A.

WorkSafe is to establish a working group to develop a suitable training course based on the Civil Contractors Federation submission before the expiry of the transition period on 10 August 2025.

## **Managing Electrical Risks Code of Practice**

MAPAC endorsed the *Managing electrical risks in the workplace: Code of practice* for gazettal.

## **Legislation Update**

Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022 have been amended to extend the transition period for statutory position holders appointed under the previous mine safety legislation to transition to requirements under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*.

Statutory position holders now have until 30 March 2026 to meet certification requirements under the WHS laws.

## **WorkSafe Safety Education update**

MAPAC noted the recent and upcoming WorkSafe events activities, including stakeholder guidance, stakeholder relations and digital engagement.

MAPAC thanked WorkSafe for the recent Work Health and Safety Excellence Awards. Those that attended the event noted it was well attended, had interesting speakers, and was positively received.

WorkSafe Mines Safety has released a video from an incident that occurred in 2018, where an operator was trapped between an EWP and overhead structure.

## **Addressing Psychosocial risk report**

MAPAC acknowledged the WorkSafe report, *Addressing psychosocial hazards and risk factors at Western Australian mining operations*.

The report highlights two decades of activities by WorkSafe Mines Safety, in its various corporate structures, over the period 2002 to 2022 to improve psychosocial health and safety for workers in the mining industry.

## **Public consultation: Code of Practice - Psychosocial hazards at work for fly-in fly-out workers in the resources and construction sectors.**

The draft *Code of Practice - Psychosocial hazards at work for fly-in fly-out workers in the resources and construction sectors* provides guidance on the application of a risk management process to avoid or minimise the harm from psychosocial hazards and risk factors.

The draft Code was released for public comment, with submissions closing on 24 October 2024.

MAPAC noted the submissions summary report presenting feedback received as part of the public consultation.

**NEXT MEETING 19 February 2025**