

General Manager Operations

Quarterly Report 2026-27 – Q1

Resources Safety & Health Queensland

Industry profile

RSHQ is the independent regulator for Queensland's mining, quarrying, explosives, petroleum and gas industries, working to protect the safety and health of workers and communities affected by resource operations.

Through regulatory oversight, assurance, education and engagement, RSHQ promotes safe, responsible and sustainable practices across the resources sector, with a vision of zero serious harm.

Queensland's resources industries are a cornerstone of the state's economy, supporting regional communities, creating employment opportunities and supplying essential resources to domestic and international markets. RSHQ plays a critical role in ensuring these industries operate safely and effectively while maintaining public confidence in the state's regulatory framework.



Q1 Achievements dashboard (July – September 2026)

108 Audits completed	**116** Inspections completed	**218** Compliance actions issued
209 Recommendations issued	**6** Safety and Health Alerts issued	**1** Guideline released
2 Regulatory standard reviews		

Regulatory priority highlights

Q1 (July–September 2026) focused on planning and strengthening RSHQ's regulatory priorities to support targeted and effective action. We will be moving to measuring outcomes which you will see in future reports.

Audit and inspection campaigns commenced for some priorities, providing insight into current risk management practices across the resources sector and helping shape future regulatory activity. Further industry engagement and regulatory action will follow as the priorities progress.

Vehicle collisions

COAL MINES AND MINERAL MINES AND QUARRIES

Vehicle collisions remain a critical safety risk across Queensland's mining and quarrying industries. RSHQ is strengthening the management of vehicle interaction risks through targeted assurance of critical controls, promotion of effective traffic management practices and collision-prevention technologies, and sector-wide data collection to guide future regulatory action.

Key activities

Campaign activity:

101 inspections completed, including **80** targeted inspections

Compliance actions issued:

17	189	12
Directives	Substandard Condition or Practice (SCP) notices	Recommendations

Top 5 compliance themes:

54.5%	26.7%	17.8%	17.8%	9.9%
Risk management (55 inspections)	**Mine layout design and construction** (27 inspections)	**Hazard identification** (18 inspections)	**Risk analysis** (18 inspections)	**Training** (10 inspections)

Safety alerts:

Integrated tool carrier while using work basket – 10 July 2026

Fatal accident involving light vehicle at coal mine – 24 July 2026

Coal mine worker struck by rotating dragline – 11 August 2026

Serious accident involving a pressurised compressed air system and mobile equipment – 14 Sep 2026

Q2 focus

Vehicle interaction technology survey in Queensland mines and quarries

RSHQ conducted a sector-wide survey to assess the adoption and maturity of vehicle interaction controls and technologies. The survey closed on 23 October 2026, and will inform future regulatory activities.

Misfires

COAL MINES AND MINERAL MINES AND QUARRIES

The Misfire prevention campaign is driving industry adoption of the Best Practice Guidelines – Prevention of explosives misfires in blasting applications, released to industry in Q1, to reduce misfires and improve blasting safety across QLD mining, quarrying and civil construction sector.

The campaign supports the broader objective of reducing explosives-related incidents by strengthening industry understanding of misfire hazards and promoting consistent application of best-practice controls.

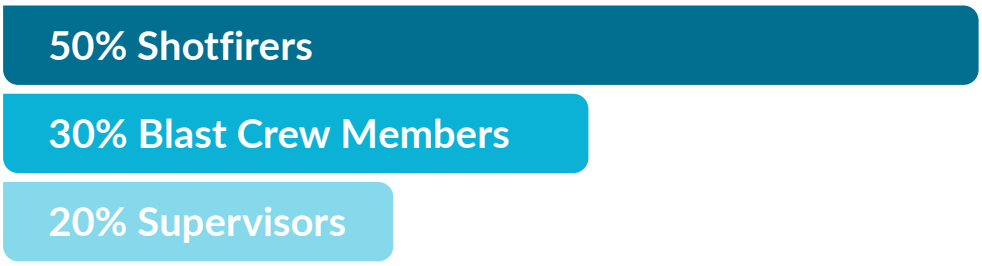
Safety alert: Misfires, bulk explosives from loaded blast hole - 6 July 2026

Key activities

A targeted audit and inspection program undertaken in Q1 identified that strong compliance with misfire prevention controls is achievable when a whole-of-process approach is adopted and supported by effective risk management, workforce competency, and quality assurance systems.

Q1 focus

Consultation was undertaken through interviews to assess participant knowledge and competency.



Overall, 15 sites inspected assessed outcomes demonstrated either excellent or strong performance with a strong level of misfire prevention controls.

Overall compliance was strong:



4 sites
100%
compliance

2 sites
97.5%
very strong compliance

6 sites
93.5%
strong compliance
minor deficiencies

3 sites
82%
compliance
significant improvement required

RSHQ's regulatory focus will be directed towards lower-performing operations, particularly those assessed as requiring significant improvement.

Q2 focus

The Q1 Misfire prevention audit and inspection program is now complete, an audit report is underway with expected release in Q2.

Fatigue management

COAL MINES, MINERAL MINES AND QUARRIES AND PETROLEUM AND GAS

Fatigue remains a complex safety risk that can affect workers' alertness, decision-making and ability to work safely, while contributing to adverse physical and psychological health outcomes.

RSHQ's Fatigue in Queensland's resources industry project aims to strengthen industry capability to identify, manage and mitigate fatigue-related risks.

Key activities

The project includes targeted audits of fatigue management practices at 69 coal, mineral mining and quarrying, and petroleum and gas sites across Queensland.

As of 30 September 2026:

47
audits completed
(13 in progress, 9 scheduled)

209
recommendations issued – average of 5 recommendations issued per audit

3
sites did not require any recommendations



209 recommendations issued across assessment categories (at 30 September 2026)

These recommendations support industry to strengthen fatigue risk controls, improving governance arrangements and promoting safer work practices across Queensland's resources sector.

Q2 focus

In Q2, RSHQ will survey audited sites and progress the project's remaining components.



Psychosocial hazard risk management

COAL MINES, MINERAL MINES AND QUARRIES AND PETROLEUM AND GAS

Psychosocial hazards are aspects of work or situations that may cause psychological or physical harm. These risks are an important regulatory focus due to the impact on worker health, wellbeing and safety.

Following a targeted 2025–26 audit campaign, RSHQ released Assessing the management of psychosocial hazards in Queensland's resources industry in Q1 to provide a consolidated view of psychosocial hazard risk management across the Queensland resources industry.

Recommendations arising from the report include:

- publish further psychosocial risk management guidance
- deliver targeted education and engagement
- strengthen risk-based triage of psychosocial incident reports
- clarify psychosocial incident reporting requirements
- enable confidential reporting through the RSHQ Portal
- continue joint initiatives with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, particularly for off-site accommodation

Q2 focus

RSHQ will continue to implement these recommendations in Q2. Progress to date has included:

- developing and publishing the Guide to psychosocial risk management
- presenting key findings at the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference.

Approved Doctors

COAL MINES

RSHQ progressed its review of health assessments under the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme. An independent medical panel is assessing the quality and consistency of clinical decisions, including guideline alignment, workplace restrictions, telehealth and emerging technologies, and COPD causality.

Key activities:

- audit framework, assessment criteria and quality review methodology developed
- health assessment auditing commenced
- stakeholder engagement commenced with medical experts conducting interviews to gather insights into current practices, governance arrangements and opportunities for improvement

Q2 focus

Q2 will include further progress on auditing of health assessments and finalisation of stakeholder interviews. The review will provide evidence-based recommendations to support the ongoing integrity, consistency and effectiveness of health assessments delivered under the Coal Mine Workers Health Scheme.



Resources Safety & Health Queensland

Use of polymeric chemicals

COAL MINES

Poorly managed polymeric chemicals can cause spontaneous combustion, fires and gas ignition, putting workers, operations and assets at risk. Following recommendations from the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry, a recognised standard tripartite working group was formed to draft an update to Recognised standard 16: Use and control of polymeric chemicals at underground coal mines (RS16)

Submissions from industry were received on draft version 3 of RS16 through a first round consultation period: 15 June 2026 to 6 July 2026. The second consultation round closed on 5 October 2026.

Key activities:

Reviewing 'Recognised Standard 16' through open consultation with the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. Two rounds of consultation were conducted in July and October 2026.

Safety alert: Mixing incompatible polymeric chemical products - 6 July 2026

Q2 focus

Q2 will report on the RS 16 Sub-Committee's review of stakeholder feedback and consider any proposed amendments to finalise RS 16 version 3 - Use and Control of Polymeric Chemicals at Coal Mines.

Strata control in bord-and-pillar coal mines

COAL MINES

Strata is a principal mining hazard, with increased place change mining heightening the risk of strata failure.

The Minister approved a review of Recognised Standard 12 (RS12) – Place change mining operations in underground coal mines.

The review aims to identify common themes and challenges to improve understanding of current industry practices and inform future regulatory activities to support safe and effective strata management.

Q2 focus

On completion of the review of RS12, RSHQ will share findings and observations with industry to support continuous improvement in strata control practices.

audit activities across selected operations

engagements with industry stakeholders on current strata control practices and challenges.



To find out more, visit RSHQ Regulatory Priorities

https://www.rshq.qld.gov.au/resources-and-publications/regulatory-priorities-and-outcomes

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