Commissioner for
Resources Safety
& Health

Gas and spontaneous combustion management in a longwall goaf

Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

11 NOVEMBER 2025

News

› Strategic plans launched to improve safety, health and wellbeing

› October is National Safe Work Month

› Register now to attend a free gas and spontaneous combustion

Register now to attend a free gas and spontaneous combustion management forum

29 September 2025

The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee will hold an industry forum on 11 November 2025 in Moranbah to share lessons regarding gas and spontaneous combustion detection and control in a longwall goaf.

The forum will focus on operational aspects of longwall ventilation, gas management, managing oxygen in the goaf, inertisation, mine design,

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Strategic plan 2025–2030

VISION A high-reliability resources industry

Support industry collaboration

- Support the advisory committees to be vehicles for strategic change
- Deepen all-sector stakeholder engagement
- Support sharing within and across sectors

Advocate for leading practice

- Deliver a phased Resources Safety and Health Queensland review program
- Advance the use of benchmarks
- Expand the promotion of leading practice

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Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Strategic plan 2025–2030

VISION

An industry where leading practice is standard, and fatalities are a thing of the past

Strategy	Key actions
4.4 Improve information sharing between industry, unions and regulator	CMSHAC to review NSW causal investigation policy and prosecution policy and any other relevant industry processes and make recommendations to achieve a tripartite investigation process and subsequent communication forums
	Identify triggers/situations where CMSHAC influences tripartite engagement and formalize through Policy

Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee

Commissioner for Resources Safety & Health

Name	Representing	Organisation	Appointed until
Ken Singer	Chairperson	Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health	Ex officio chair
Kylie Ah Wong	Coal mine operators	Queensland Resources Council	1 August 2027
Heather Bell	Coal mine operators	Queensland Resources Council	1 August 2027
Wolfgang (Fritz) Djukic	Queensland Government	Resources Safety and Health Queensland	18 September 2025
Stephen Faulkner	Coal mine operators	Queensland Resources Council	1 August 2027
Jason Hill	Coal mine workers	Mining and Energy Union	18 September 2025
Jacques Le Roux	Queensland Government	Resources Safety and Health Queensland	Ex officio member
Luke Lichos	Coal mine workers	Electrical Trades Union	1 August 2027
Stephen Smyth	Coal mine workers	Mining and Energy Union	18 September 2025
Vacant	Queensland Government	Resources Safety and Health Queensland	N/A

Substitute members

Name	Representing	Organisation	Appointed until
Tracey Hennig	Coal mine operators	Queensland Resources Council	1 August 2027
Stephen Evetts	Coal mine workers	Electrical Trades Union	1 August 2027
Shaun McKenzie	Coal mine operators	Queensland Resources Council	18 September 2025
Mitch Hughes	Coal mine workers	Mining and Energy Union	1 August 2027

Box Flat Mine 1972

31/07/1972 - Box Flat Mine - Explosion / Gas Explosion, Coal Dust Explosion

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Recommendations

1. A Safety in Mines Organisation be established.

2a) That a literature review be performed of material concerning the fighting of mine fires and that a concise, easily read manual covering the cardinal principles of dealing with mine fires be produced.

b) That senior personnel from all branches of the coal mining industry be brought together in groups to be advised by a fully competent person on the developments in techniques in fire fighting, of new equipment available, of explosive mixtures generated by a fire, of the production of water gas and on kindred matters.

3. COAL DUST

4. FIRE FIGHTING

5. MINE GASES

6. VENTILATION

7. FOAM GENERATORS

8. SPALL FROM RIBS

9. That any person who is appointed to make technical decisions that affect the Manager's authority regarding the safety of the mine must be qualified as a Manager under the Act and shall be responsible under the Act.

Kianga No. 1 Mine Explosion 1975

20/09/1975 - Kianga No 1 - Explosion / Gas Explosion, Coal Dust Explosion

It was recommended by the Inquiry that:—

(a) the knowledge of all members of the coal mining industry in Queensland be upgraded with regard to spontaneous combustion.

(b) changes be made in the Queensland Coal Mining Act to provide for:

- additional protection against the propogation of coal dust explosions,
- monitoring or sampling of ventilation,
- preparatory seals and the recognition and delineation of responsibilities of persons with technical authority superior to a Manager.

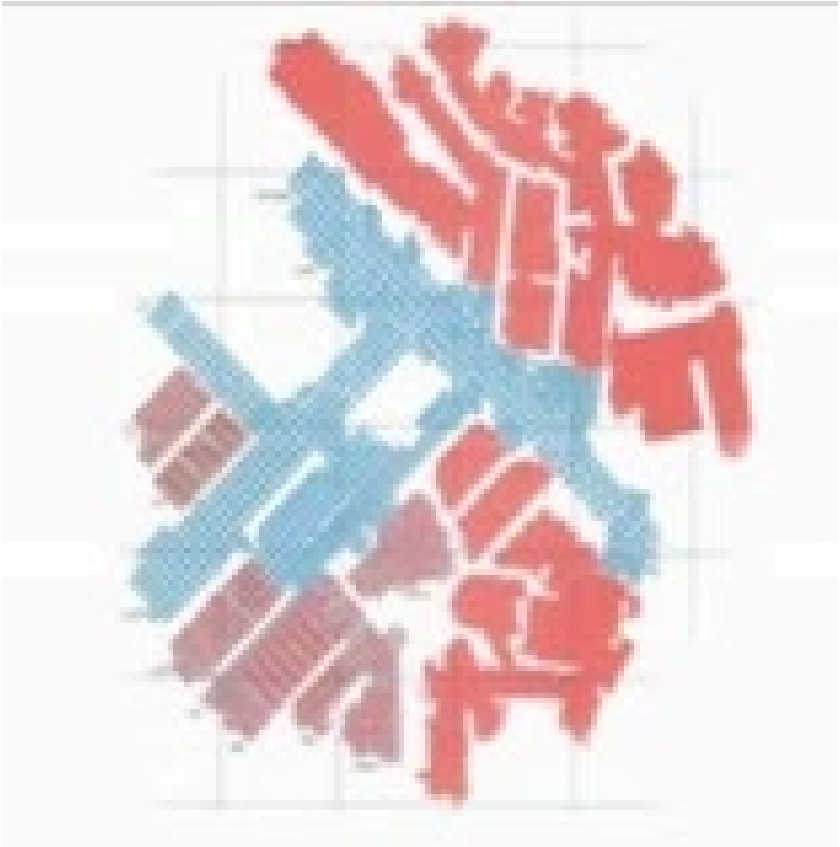
(c) additional analytical facilities to be provided for the industry.

Moura 2 Mine 1994

07/08/1994 - Moura 2 Mine - Explosion / Gas Explosion, Coal Dust Explosion

Recommendations

- Spontaneous combustion management
- Mine safety management plans
- Training and communications
- Statutory certificates
- Ventilation Officer
- Self Resue breathing apparatus
- Emergency escape facilities
- Gas monitoring system protocols
- Sealing - designs and procedures
- Withdrawal of persons
- Inertisation
- Research into spontaneous combustion
- Panel design
- Mine surface facilities
- Literature and other training support
- Future inquiries



2024 Grosvenor Explosion and Fire

29/06/2024 - Grosvenor - Explosion, Fire

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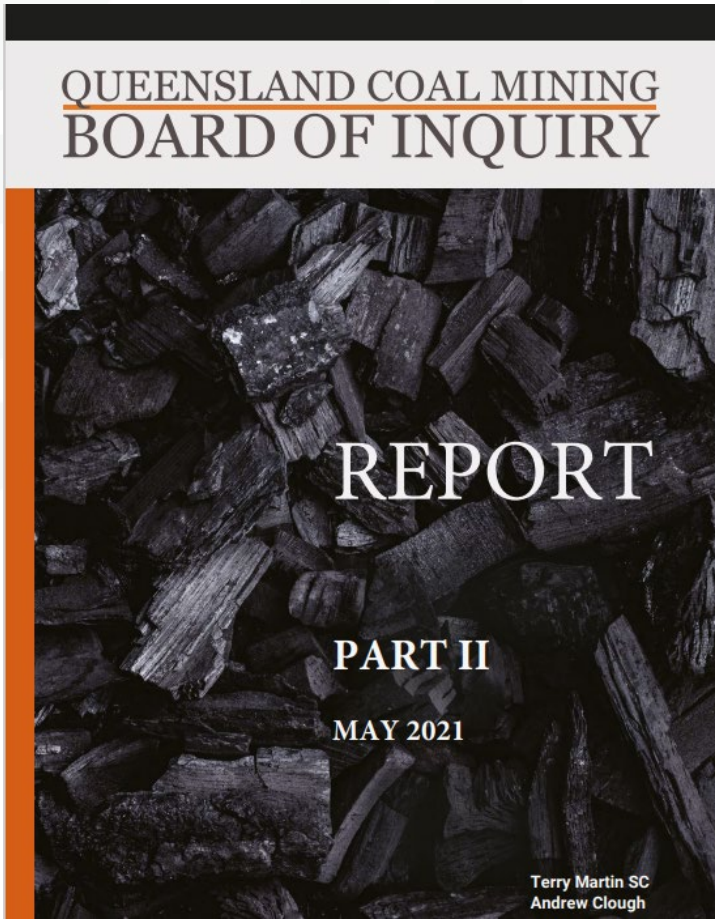

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Possible explanations for the first pressure wave 229

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Relative likelihood that the first pressure wave was a result of strata fall or methane ignition 281

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Recommendation 284

News

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Joint review industry forum a first for Queensland mine safety

16 July 2025

Coal mining senior industry leaders came together recently for a first ever tripartite safety and health forum to consider a high potential incident at Anglo American's Moranbah North steelmaking coal mine in Central Queensland.

WHAT I NEED OF YOU

Advise on effective control of risk	Inform and influence stakeholders
Improve the management of fatigue Perform a deep dive into each identified critical risk area: • non-mining tasks (surface) • goaf management (underground) • vehicle interactions (surface) • strata management (underground)	Engagement with industry at forums Hold CMSHAC meetings in regional areas 2 times/year Implement feedback strategy Improve information sharing between industry, unions and regulator Provide advice to the Minister

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Division 2 Cooperation

32 Cooperation to achieve objects of Act

(1) This Act seeks to achieve cooperation between coal operators, site senior executives and coal workers to achieve the objects of the Act.

(2) Cooperation is an important strategy in achieving the objects of the Act and is achieved—

(a) at an industry level by—

(i) the establishment of the coal mining safety and health advisory committee under part 6; and

(ii) the appointment of industry safety and health representatives under part 8; and

Item #	Time	Item details	Speaker
1.	9.00		ner and
2.	9.20 (incl. Q&A)		Coal
3.	10.15 (incl.		ne
4.	10.45		

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Item #	Time	Item details	Speaker
5.	11.05 – 11.35 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**Oaky North** ▪ Mining context ▪ Learnings and industry share	**Jason Fairweather** Underground Mine Manager
6.	11.35 – 12.05 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**Centurian mine** ▪ Mining context ▪ Learnings and industry share	**Michael Carter** Vice President – Operational Support
7.	12.05 – 12.45 pm	Lunch	

7.	12.05 – 12.45 pm	Lunch	
8.	12.45 – 1.15 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**Broadmeadow** ▪ Mining context ▪ Learnings and industry share	**David Caley** Ventilation officer
9.	1.15 – 1.45 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**NSW Department of Natural Resources and Mines** NSW guidance material	**David Macpherson** NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
10.	1.45 – 2.05 pm	**B3 Mining Services** ▪ Some operational perspectives on spontaneous combustion management of a longwall goaf ▪ Trigger action response plans	**Basil Beamish**
11.	2.05 – 2.20 pm	Afternoon tea	

11.	2.05 – 2.20 pm	Afternoon tea	
12.	2.20 – 2.40 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**Simtars** ▪ Gas evolution testing for underground coal mines	**Sean Muller** Director Mine Safety Technology and Research Centre
13.	2.40 – 3.30 pm (incl. 5 min Q&A)	**Queensland Mines Rescue Service** ▪ Lessons in emergency mine sealing and re-entry	**Ray Smith** General Manager - Operations
14.	3.30 – 4.15 pm (45 min)	**Panel discussion** ▪ Facilitator—Ken Singer	
15.	4.15 – 4.30 pm	**Summary** ▪ Where to from here?	**Ken Singer** Acting Commissioner Resources Safety and Health

Panel discussion

Moderator

Ken Singer, Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health

Where to from here?