

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes - MAPAC endorsed the minutes of 13 May 2026, with minor typographical amendment.

Challenges with Lithium Batteries - presentation

A presentation on hazards associated with lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries commonly used in mining operations, including in heavy earthmoving equipment both underground and on the surface and small battery-operated tools, covered:

- the reactive chemical nature of Li and the products that contain Li-ion from small personal products to large energy storage systems (big batteries);
- mining and transport incident case studies demonstrating how improper use, haphazard storage especially in confined and unventilated spaces, transport, charging, disposal and de-energizing practices can lead to difficult-to-extinguish chemical fires or explosions posing significant safety risks for workers, and others;
- the role of multiple government agencies in the safe control of Li-ion battery products including DFES and Department of Transport; and
- that LGIRS WorkSafe Mines and Dangerous Goods Safety has convened an industry-led working group comprising of major mining and transport companies and are developing further guidance for disposal, detection, storage and placarding of Li-ion battery products.

Members discussed the matters raised, acknowledged the broad implications for WHS and added that appropriate training and competency levels, trade recognition, jobs skills councils and the jurisdictional complexities are all important for the safe handling of Li-ion batteries.

Minister updates

The Chair met with the Minister on 11 June 2026 at Parliament House. The Minister conveyed her support for the work of MAPAC members and requested to attend a MAPAC meeting later in 2026.

In the State Government forward budget estimates, funding to strengthen duty holders' capacity to comply with the WHS Act, and to increase staffing within the LGIRS Safety Education area was included. Three dedicated guidance officer positions are expected to be recruited to support mining-related work.

Draft MAPAC Strategic Plan

The Chair outlined the framework to further develop the MAPAC Strategic Plan and sought members' input on the draft provided. It was noted that the final plan will need to align with the WHS Commission Plan and take into account the priorities of the WorkSafe Way Forward Plan. Members discussed how geothermal energy and the petroleum industry could be reflected in MAPAC's strategic direction. The Chair requested that members give further consideration to measurable outcomes with a view to endorsing the plan at the August meeting.

Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS ACT) Statutory review update and presentation

The key themes from the 72 submissions received during the public consultation period for the statutory review indicated strong support for harmonisation, acknowledged a high compliance burden—particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—and emphasised the importance of consistent regulatory advice and practical, user-friendly guidance.

The feedback identified areas of the WHS Act for potential revision including concerns regarding unintended consequences of section 26A, which places duties on WHS service providers; the section 82 dispute resolution process - two-day timeframe for inspectors to resolve workplace disputes; notifiable incidents or injuries; and the display of notices concerning psychosocial matters. There was conditional support for the introduction of infringement notices as an enforcement tool, noting that these are already in use in some jurisdictions.

ENDORSED Code of practice: Road and Traffic management at Western Australian Mines (Road and Traffic Code)

The use of the term 'haul roads' within the draft 'Scope and application' section introduced an unintended limitation to the document and it was recommended to use 'road' to ensure all roads on WA mines were in scope of the Road and Traffic Code. Members agreed to this minor amendment.

The Road and Traffic Code was endorsed, subject to the agreed change. MAPAC will provide advice to the Minister to approve and gazette the Code.

Safety Education update

A status update on the draft codes of practice was given, positive feedback was received on the Mining Summit held on 4 June 2026, and MAPAC members were asked to act as judges for the WHS Excellence Awards (WSEA). Michelle Gadella, Greg Busson, and Iain Dainty nominated as judges.

Members raised lengthy processes and extensive approval requirements although it was noted that recent State budget allocations to recruit three mining guidance officers are expected to improve resourcing and support future workflows.

The MARS and Curtin Landmark Study was discussed and, while not directly overseen by MAPAC, members agreed it would be beneficial to retain a six-monthly agenda item to remain informed.

Statistical information

Members noted that typically, data provided has lag (2024/2025) and did not always make apparent the reasons for any notable variance nor identify emerging issues. Member questions included:

- why does the bauxite aluminium industry show a higher rate of injury compared to the other industries for the period?
- can expert data presentations on specific topics be considered for future MAPAC meetings, and
- the EWP data indicates a need for guidance/ code of practice.

LGIRS WorkSafe is working towards providing a statistical interactive dashboard similar to Safe Work Australia in the future. [<https://data.safeworkaustralia.gov.au>]

Mines Statutory Position updates

Close to 34,000 candidates had completed WHS examinations with a 93.4 per cent pass rate which allows those candidates to apply for statutory positions on mines. This number far exceeds the amount predicted and demand still exists. Guides are being developed to support the RTO external examiner model and once finalised, will be provided to MAPAC.

Workplace exposure limits (WELS)

On 1 December 2026 WELS replaces the Workplace Exposure Standards. A WA education campaign will raise industry awareness and assist workplaces to prepare for the transition to the WELS. Safe Work Australia has also established a stakeholder information hub providing practical guidance on managing airborne contaminants and transitioning to the new WELS.

Scheduled meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for **19 August 2026**.