GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MAPAC Mining and Petroleum Advisory Committee

# COMMUNIQUE

## 19 AUGUST 2026

### Governance

Members discussed the Committee's relationship with the Work Health and Safety Commission (WHSC) and alignment of its Terms of Reference to recent changes to the WHSC Terms of Reference.

Discussion clarified the advisory function of the Committee to advise both the Minister and the WHSC on mining, petroleum and geothermal matters in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, as well as additional functions set out in the Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations.

### MAPAC Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Members considered its draft Strategic Plan 2026-29 and alignment with the strategic priorities of the WHSC and LGIRS-WorkSafe 'The way forward plan'.

The final Strategic Plan is to include a vision statement to set an agreed direction and include measures to identify work health and safety risks and opportunities arising from new and emerging technology adoption across the sectors. Members supported risk-based decision-making to be informed by available data and workplace consultation.

To improve clarity and impact, the Strategic Plan is to be finalised using graphics, performance measures and targets, with a stronger focus on how the Committee effects advice to decision-makers.

### Code of practice: Road and traffic management at Western Australian mines

The Minister for Industrial Relations approved the *Code of Practice: Road and Traffic Management at Western Australian Mines*, with notice of the approval published in the Government Gazette on 4 August 2026.

The Code is available on the WorkSafe website.

### Prioritisation of development of codes of practice and guidance notes

Members considered the proposed prioritisation of mining-related codes of practice and guidance notes, including three documents linked to the agenda. Members noted the extensive number of publications requiring review, revision, replacement or withdrawal, and agreed to consult external stakeholders and their member networks.

Members agreed to seek feedback from external stakeholders to support prioritisation and future workload planning and alignment with WHSC's priorities.

**Update on codes of practice**

*Code of practice: Workers' accommodation (Accommodation code)*

Members noted the draft *Code of practice: Workers' accommodation* outcomes of the public consultation and consideration by the WHSC.

Public consultation resulted in 50 submissions.

LGIRS-WorkSafe is revising the draft in response to the consultation, prior to providing to MAPAC for further consideration.

*Code of Practice: Psychosocial risks for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers in the resources and construction sectors (FIFO code)*

Members noted the progress of the draft *Code of Practice: Psychosocial risks for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers in the resources and construction sectors*.

The Code has been finalised, having considered advice previously provided by MAPAC during its development and public consultation.

The WHSC endorsed an updated draft, including revised case studies, for submission to the Minister for Industrial Relations for approval.

Members discussed the Code's progression, with some noting they had not seen the final draft and the importance of consistent language and messaging across psychosocial WHS guidance and codes of practice.

**Data – Fatality update and Injuries report**

Members discussed mining industry data reports and suggested improvements to improve data.

It was noted that current WHS mining data are primarily derived from statutory notifications reported by PCBUs under legislative requirements. Data as collected through WorkSafe's existing SRS system has limited reporting capabilities, and data extraction and analysis are labour intensive.

Members requested to have additional vehicle incidents, compliance outcomes and fatality case status reporting to include prosecution status.

Discussion included workforce trends relating to contractors and increased FIFO employment, and importance of effective supervision for younger and less experienced workers.

Members were advised to raise specific data queries through the Executive Officer.

**Safety Education Update**

Recent WHS education, guidance and communication activities included publication of a Significant Incident Summary on remote-controlled skip bins, information on high-risk work licenses, and a workplace exposure limits (WEL) campaign supported by translated materials and digital campaign.

Current stakeholder engagement work is focused on guidance relating to lithium-ion battery safety, tyre failures during explosions, and asbestos and silica in fire doors.

Upcoming WHS promotional activities, include the Site Senior Executives Forum, attracting 350 registrations and to be released as a video during Safe Work Month in October 2026.

LGIRS WorkSafe is preparing two webinars, one on critical risk and another on WEL for the AusIMM International Mines Safety Conference 2026.

**Safe Work Australia Updates**

Members were provided with Safe Work Australia updates on AI technology, recent public consultation activities, enhancements to the Hazardous Chemical Information System, and the maximum monetary penalties comparison table.

**Mines Statutory Position updates**

The Mines Statutory Positions program has provided 35,982 WHS examinations passed by 31,301 unique candidates since its commencement, with a current pass rate of 94.21 per cent.

All candidates who have passed the examination are able to take up WHS statutory positions on mines across Western Australia.

There remains strong ongoing demand for WHS examinations, with more than 1,500 enrolments planned for August and September 2026.

Demand continues to exceed forecasts, with the examination process being managed by LGIRS-WorkSafe.

An external examiner model involving Registered Training Organisations is being developed and will be provided to MAPAC once finalised.

**Scheduled meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for **21 October 2026**.