



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Statement by Mitchell H. Hooke, Chief Executive Officer, Minerals Council of Australia

Safety is the Australian minerals industry's number one value. We are committed to an industry free of fatalities, injuries and diseases.

As we pause to recognise International Workers Memorial Day, the minerals sector has recommitted itself to work with all stakeholders to ensure every member of the industry returns home safely.

A single fatality in our sector is totally unacceptable and deeply regretted. Minerals Council of Australia member companies maintain that:

- > all fatalities, injuries and diseases are preventable;
- > no task is so important that it cannot be done safely;
- > all hazards can be identified and their risks managed; and
- > everyone has a personal responsibility for the safety and health of themselves and their work mates.

While the Australian minerals sector has over the past decade improved from an industry regarded as having one of the worst industrial safety records to now having one of the best, safety and health performance can always improve.

In this vein, Safe Work Australia will tonight announce its annual awards recognising excellence in workplace safety. This important event continues to enable the sharing of solutions and ideas to reduce workplace injuries.

The MCA has welcomed the establishment of Safe Work Australia (SWA) as the replacement body to the Australian Safety and Compensation Council. SWA has the critical role of developing model Occupational Health and Safety legislation to be adopted by all industries in all jurisdictions.

The MCA has strongly advocated a single OH&S Act covering all sectors and jurisdictions and industry-specific national regulations where required, complemented by national codes of practice and guidelines.

The MCA looks forward to continuing its engagement with Safe Work Australia with a view to this critical reform being implemented in 2009.