

# Australian Minerals Industry Safety & Health

## SAFETY SURVEY REPORT

FOR 1 JULY 1999 –  
30 JUNE 2000

### SUMMARY

- In the 1999-2000 reporting year a total of eighteen\* (18) fatalities occurred in the Australian minerals industry. This figure shows a substantial rise from the total of ten (10) deaths for the 1998-99 reporting year.
- The fourth quarter alone saw seven fatalities: 1 death in open-cut metalliferous; 5 in underground metalliferous and 1 in an underground coal operation. In addition, a mining-related fatality occurred when a contractor died of a drug overdose in a remote campsite (April).
- The indicative total industry LTIFR for 1999-2000 is estimated at 10, after an improved fourth quarter result of 9. However this estimate is likely to change once official figures are reported and published in the Council's comprehensive annual *Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry 1999-2000*.

\* This figure does not include the death of a Granny Smith employee in April 2000 for which the coroner's report is still pending.

### SAFETY NEWS

#### 2000 NATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH INNOVATION AWARDS

The National Safety and Health Innovation Awards were established in 1999 by the Minerals Council of Australia to foster the development of innovative solutions to everyday safety and health matters.

Based on the innovation awards run by the State Minerals Councils/Chambers, the national competition selects its winners from the State award recipients.

This year's winner, announced at the Minerals Council of Australia's Safety & Health Culture Conference held in April, was Bayswater Colliery with its employee-based approach to communicating a core risk management plan.

The innovative approach features two elements considered critical for safety success – employee involvement and effective communication. It is part of the operation's overall Core Risk Management Plan, which was designed not only to involve employees in the actual risk assessment but also to utilise those employees to communicate the findings and recommendations of the assessment to the rest of the workforce through a series of Safety Day presentations.

Three other innovations were recognised with high commendations at the presentation ceremony.

The first high commendation was awarded for the innovative use of a non-toxic heavy liquid in mineral

float/sink separations. Developed jointly by Rio Tinto Exploration and Iluka Resources, the process involves the substitution of a low toxicity and user friendly heavy liquid for a highly toxic liquid which is used for laboratory float/sink separation of light minerals from denser mineral components.

A mechanical drill-rod handling system for a multi-purpose drill rig was also awarded a high commendation. Developed by John Nitschke Drilling, the JND Drill-Rod Handling System is designed to minimise manual handling requirements.

The final high commendation was awarded to a heat stress meter and associated working-in-heat protocols which were developed by MIM Holdings to reduce the incidence and severity of heat illness in mine workers.

The Innovation Awards are an important part of the minerals industry's drive to eliminate fatalities, injuries and diseases. They offer an opportunity to recognise the excellence and innovation already being achieved by the industry and to spread the word on these improvements so that the whole industry can benefit from the learnings.

A booklet profiling each of the innovations nominated for the 2000 Awards will be released shortly and made available on the Council's web site ([www.minerals.org.au](http://www.minerals.org.au)).

*“The state  
of mind  
where we are  
constantly  
aware of the  
possibility  
of injury  
and act  
accordingly  
at all times.”*

Minerals Council  
of Australia  
Safety Awareness



**MINERALS  
COUNCIL**

OF AUSTRALIA

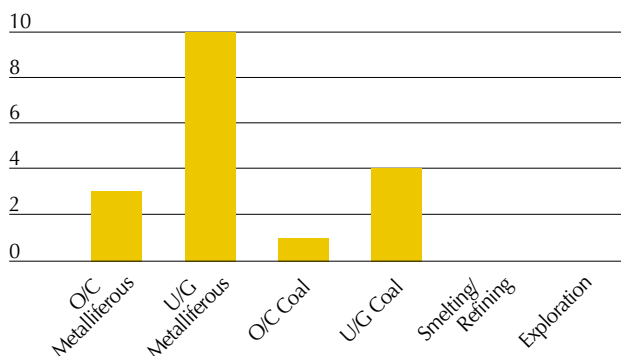
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## FATALITIES

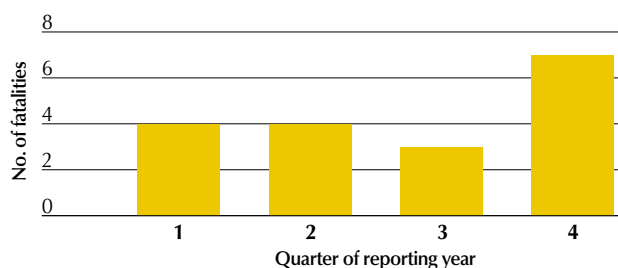
Of the eighteen fatalities which have occurred in the 1999-2000 reporting year:

- three occurred in open cut metalliferous;
- ten in underground metalliferous;
- one in open cut coal; and
- four in underground coal.

### Fatalities by Sector 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000



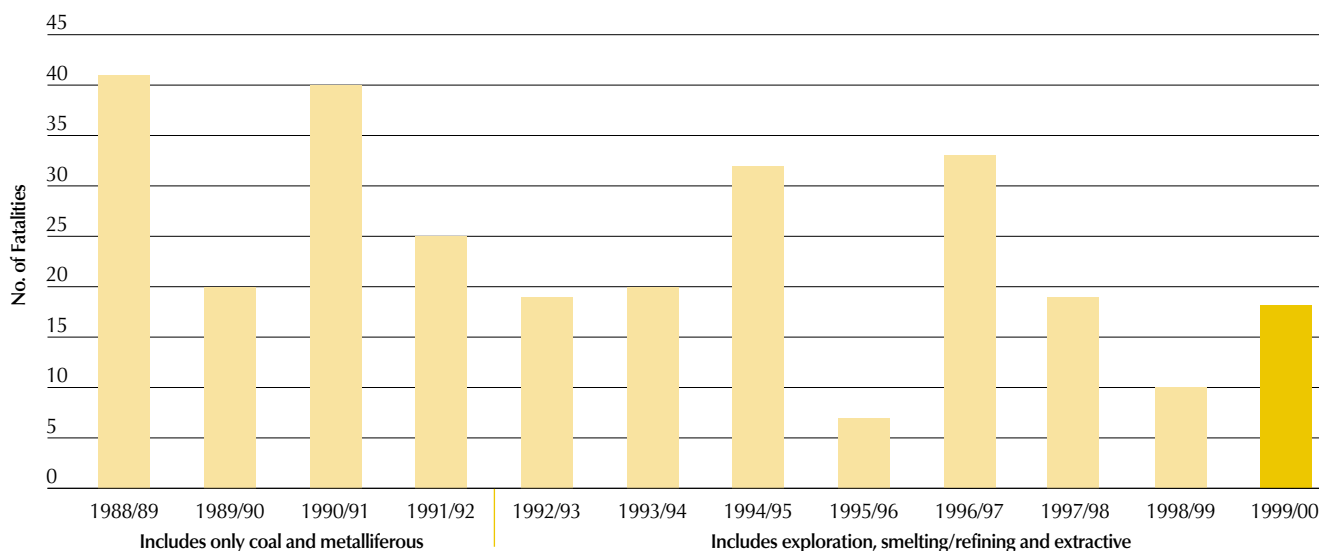
### 1999-2000 Fatalities by quarter



### 1999-2000 Fatalities by State



### Fatalities 1988-89 – 30 June 2000



## DESCRIPTION OF MINERALS INDUSTRY FATALITIES

There have been seven fatalities this quarter.

### Western Australia – OPEN CUT METALLIFEROUS

■ Mr David Te Moananui, an employee of Henry Walker Eltin, died on 26 May 2000 when the truck he was driving at a BHP Iron Ore operation fell over the edge of an ore stockpile.

### Western Australia – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

■ A single fatality took place at Newcrest's Telfer gold mine on 16 May 2000. Mr Moana Ngarimu, a 42-year-old worker, was killed instantly when he was crushed between the bucket of a load/haul/dump vehicle and a charge-up vehicle.

■ A triple fatality occurred at Normandy Mining's Bronzewing mine on 26 June 2000. Timothy Bell, Shane Hamill and Troy Woodard died when a bulkhead failed resulting in mine-fill flowing into lower levels of the mine.

### Queensland – UNDERGROUND COAL

■ Mr Michael Morris, an employee of MIM Holdings' Oak Creek mine, was killed on 26 May 2000 after becoming trapped in the collapse of a coal mine.

### Queensland – OPEN CUT COAL

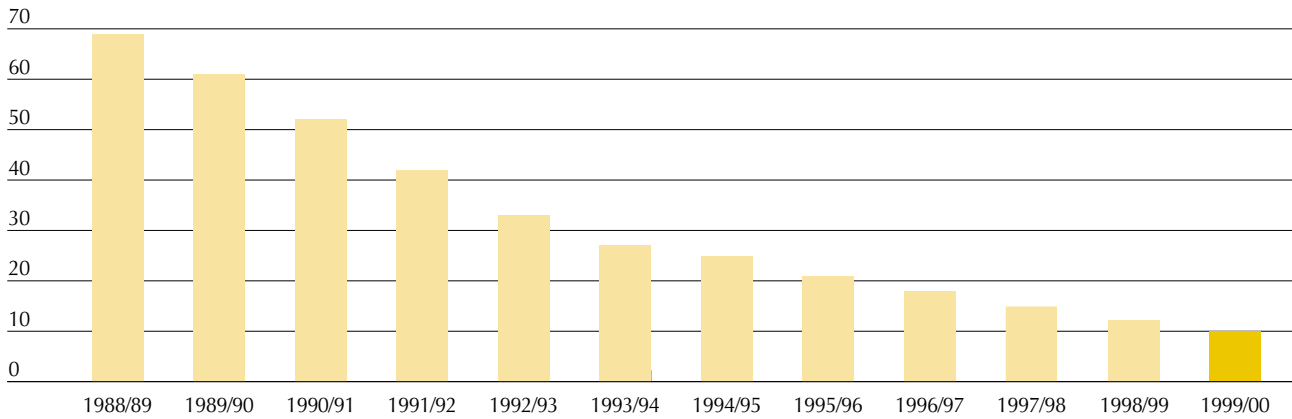
■ Mr Christopher Lee died on 15 March 2000 at the Jellinbah East Mine of Jellinbah Resources Pty Ltd. Mr Lee, a maintenance worker, received fatal injuries when the tray of a haul pack, which was being lifted by a forklift, became dislodged and fell on to him.

### New South Wales – UNDERGROUND METALLIFEROUS

■ On 8 June, Mr Nick De Bruin, while working at Newcrest's Ridgeway mine, received head injuries from falling rocks and/or a blow from the protective canopy he was using while removing the drilling head from the bottom of a raise bore development.

## LOST TIME INJURY FREQUENCY RATE

Total Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate 1988-89 – 30 June 2000



The indicative total industry Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) for 1999-2000 is estimated at 10, after an improved fourth quarter result of 9. However, this estimate is likely to change once official figures are reported and published in the Council's comprehensive annual *Safety and Health Performance Report of the Australian Minerals Industry 1999-2000*. This compares favourably with an LTIFR for the minerals industry of 12 in 1998-99 as quoted in the *Safety & Health Performance Report* for that year.

Underground coal continues to have the highest LTIFR with a rate of 30 averaged over the year (best rate of 28 occurred in quarter four).

Apart from exploration (LTIFR rate of 4), open cut metalliferous recorded the lowest LTIFR rate of all sectors for the year at 6.

However, all sectors recorded an improvement in LTIFR for the final quarter of the 1999-2000 reporting year.

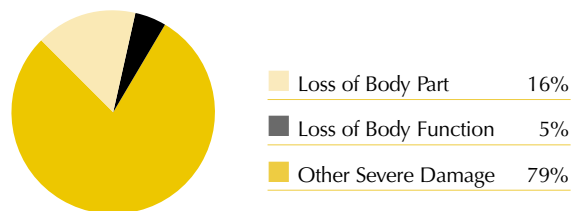
Recognising the limitations of the survey methodology, the Council would not wish to draw any conclusions based on this LTIFR data alone.

### MOST SEVERE INJURIES

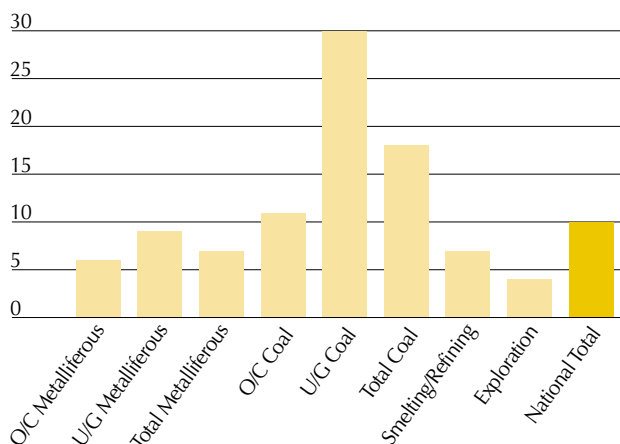
Nineteen severe injuries were reported for the fourth quarter – one company reporting eleven of these nineteen. When added to the total for the first three quarters (17), severe injuries reported for the year total thirty-six.

Survey responses for the fourth quarter indicate three losses of body parts (two fingers, one loss of toes), one loss of body function (multiple crush injuries to the foot), and fifteen other severe damage (fractures of hip, vertebrae, leg, ankle, bone above eyebrow, burns, crush injuries and lacerations).

### Most Severe (Single Traumatic Event) Injuries – this quarter



LTIFR By Sector 1 July 1999 – 30 June 2000



### MEDICAL TREATMENT AND LOST TIME INJURIES GREATER THAN 10 DAYS

For the reporting year 1999-2000, a total of 1832 medical treatment injuries and 148 LTIs greater than 10 days were recorded.

For the fourth quarter, twenty-three (23) of the 148 LTIs greater than 10 days occurred. This figure is less than half last quarter's figure (51).

*NB: Not all companies record medical treatment injuries and LTIs greater than 10 days. In order to make next reporting year's statistics more useful and to share the task of eliminating injuries, companies are encouraged to start recording medical treatment injuries if they do not already do so.*

## SAFETY MILESTONES

The Council recognises that, despite the continuation of fatalities and injuries in the industry, there are a number of safety success stories which provide significant opportunities for industry participants to benchmark their own operations and to exchange ideas and information on safety and health issues.

This report features the winner of the 2000 National Safety & Health Innovation Awards mentioned earlier in this publication.

### INNOVATION:

#### **Core Risk Management Plan – Communication Process**

### COMPANY:

**Bayswater Colliery Co Pty Ltd (NSW)**

### DESCRIPTION:

This innovative approach dovetails two elements considered critical for safety success: employee involvement and effective communication. As part of Bayswater Colliery's Core Risk Management Plan, employees were involved in the actual risk assessment. The same employees then communicated the findings and recommendations of the assessment to the rest of the work force through a series of Safety Day presentations.

### BENEFITS / EFFECTS:

- Combines project involvement by employees with effective communication to employees.
- Instruction and learning more readily accepted if presented by employees to their peers.
- Employees gain a better understanding of workplace hazards and risk reduction.

- Resulted in a significant reduction of reportable occurrences at the colliery.
- Existing procedures and systems reviewed to ensure compliance with revised coal mines regulations.

### PRACTICALITY:

- Dual role played by directly-affected employees.
- Presentations run concurrently with presenters moving from venue to venue throughout a shift.

### INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

- Directly applicable to other mines, which seek to re-evaluate approaches to involving workers in safety management.
- Also applicable to any other industries where risk management features as a core part of the safety and health system.

### INNOVATION AND ORIGINALITY:

- Combination of employee involvement (one in three employees became peer tutors) with informative dissemination to peers.

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

#### **Mr Brian Selmes**

Manager, Safety Systems  
Bayswater Colliery

Tel: (02) 6542 9237

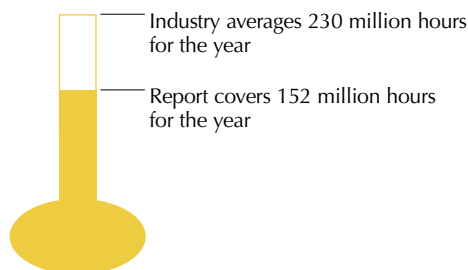
Fax: (02) 6542 5031

## METHODOLOGY OF QUARTERLY SURVEY

The Minerals Council would like to thank the 36 companies, State/Territory Minerals Councils/Chambers, the Joint Coal Board, the Australian Aluminium Council and State/Territory mines departments who supplied information for this report. Given the short timeframe within which the data has been collected and collated, the data used is not necessarily reported on a consistent basis. While every effort has been made to obtain data from throughout the industry, the Council estimates (based on exposure hours) that this report covers 66 per cent of the Australian minerals industry and believes this report provides a reasonably good indication of the general safety performance trends in the industry.

The Council is also aware that, for some fatalities, the circumstances at the time of the fatal incident are unclear, so that a decision cannot be made immediately as to whether the death is a workplace related fatality or is due to natural causes. In these cases, the Council is guided by the approach taken by the relevant State government authority. Any revisions in fatalities will be included in this report as appropriate.

### Report Coverage based on exposure hours



**Note: The Joint Coal Board (JCB) advises that the data made available to the Minerals Council of Australia is not comprehensive and represents about 90 per cent of the total collection. The Minerals Council thanks the JCB for releasing this data and advises readers to take account of this factor when drawing any conclusions based on this data.**

This document can be found on the Council's website:

[www.minerals.org.au](http://www.minerals.org.au)

**Note to readers:** If you would like future issues of this quarterly document emailed to you (as a PDF document or a Word document), please contact Del Da Costa at the Minerals Council of Australia on 02 6279 3644, fax 02 6279 3699 or by email [d.dacosta@minerals.org.au](mailto:d.dacosta@minerals.org.au)