



Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW Inc.

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Mr Kym Bills
Independent Reviewer
NSW Resources Regulator

Dear Mr Bills

RE: Review of Part 5 of the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Regulation 2014

The Association of Consulting Surveyors NSW is the industry peak body that represents the surveying and spatial industries in NSW. Our members comprise small, medium and large firms based throughout NSW. We work closely with other associations in our sector, including the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS).

Our members work across a number of mine sites in New South Wales and would like to ask for the following to be considered in your review of the regulation.

Update to the Geocentric Datum of Australia

- Currently GDA94 is reference from a gazettal notice in 1995.
- GDA2020 was released on 1 January 2020 and is the datum referenced by the Surveying and Spatial Information Act for NSW and should be adopted as a common standard.

Inclusion of Mine Surveyor as Key Statutory position

- Currently a mine surveyor is a statutory function, not a key statutory function. As such multiple surveyors can be nominated to fulfil the role creating confusion on who is responsible and accountable for surveys undertaken and plans prepared.
- Including the registered mine surveyor in Clause 135, Definition of key statutory functions, would create certainty for each site and eliminate the possibility for multiple nominated surveyors.

Audit function for the Regulator

- Currently it is an operator obligation to have a mine survey plan prepared and certified by an individual nominated to exercise the statutory function of mining surveyor. In some cases this plan is not seen or submitted to the Regulator prior to mine closure at which point any inadequacy or inaccuracy may not be able to be addressed. This is particularly the case with metalliferous open cut mines and smaller metalliferous underground mines. While the mine survey plan must be made available for inspection under WHS laws there seems little authority to allow an audit of the plans adequacy, accuracy or the people involved in its preparation.
- By introducing an auditing power for the Regulator potential issues regarding adequacy and accuracy can be addressed while access is still available the workings involved to address the issues as well as ensuring compliance with qualification requirements.

We support the submission of AIMS and ask that further consideration be given to the three requests above. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely

Michelle Blicavs
Chief Executive Officer

SURVEYORS vital to Australia's Development