

Coal Competence Board

John Maitland
Chairman
Coal Competence Board



Role of the Coal Competence Board

- The purpose of this presentation is to introduce the Coal Competence Board, explain its role and raise some issues that the Board will be dealing with.
- The Board has been established to improve mine safety performance by ensuring that people working in the mining industry are competent to work safely. It advises the Minister and oversees the development of health and safety standards and the assessment of competencies.

Background – delete

- Discussion papers and an extensive consultation process resulted in the new legislation and the establishment of the Coal Competence Board.
- 1. *Green Paper: Transforming Health & Safety Regulation in NSW Coal Mines, July 2000.*
- 2. *White Paper: Safety Works Proposal for a Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, February 2002.*

Legislation

- The Coal Competence Board has been established under the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act and Regulation* which came into effect on 23 December 2006.
- Legislation: *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002*
- Regulation: *Coal Mine Health and Safety Regulation 2006*

Board Membership: CMHSA 2002 s. 132

John Maitland (Chairperson)

Gavin Taylor and David Mellows
(representatives of the Minerals Council)

Ian Murray and Keith Shaw (representatives
of the Union)

John McKendry and Bob Gibbons (people
who have expertise in the development
and assessment of competence or people
performing functions at coal operations)

Rod Morrison and Rob Regan (officers of the
Department of Primary Industries)

Operation of the Examination Boards

- The existing Examination Boards have continued to operate and now fall under the Coal Competence Board.
- Processes were set up for examinations to continue and the 2006/2007 examination cycle is well under way. Certificates of Competency continue to be issued to candidates who have been assessed as competent.

Significant Issues for the Board's Consideration

The first task for the Board will be to determine its priorities. Some of the key issues which it will consider are:

- The adoption of competency standards for Certificates of Competency
- Possible additional statutory functions
- The development of a system for the maintenance of competence
- Mutual recognition processes
- The development of strategic partnerships with bodies such as RIISC and MISA
- The alignment of national training competencies with statutory requirements for Certificates of Competence

Significant Issues for the Board's Consideration

- Replacement of some written exams with competency based assessment
- A process for examiner and assessor training
- Encourage the development of occupational associations to qualify and recommend (or set) standards for statutory functions
- Consider the priorities for industry to ensure a supply of competent workers based on short supply, safety record and industry feedback on the types of positions required

Board Activities 2007

- The Board has had two meetings and has now mapped out a program of activities for the rest of the year
- The focus is on consultation and establishing relationships with stakeholders
- The Board is a credible forum in which mining industry stakeholders can raise and successfully deal with issues relating to competence

International Issues

- The Board has approved a process for the recognition of overseas mining degrees
- The aim is to have a system which allows recognition of overseas qualifications, while ensuring that standards are equivalent

Summary

- Consider the priorities for industry to ensure a supply of competent workers
- Form strategic partnerships
- Work towards a simplified and consistent national approach
- Adopt competence arrangements from elsewhere, including other states and industries, wherever it is sensible and relevant to do so
- The Board is commencing a long term program which will result in people who are competent to work in the industry.