

Communique Regarding the Mine Survey Industry Response to Proposed Legislative Changes

Herein is a communique from your peers in the mine survey industry regarding proposed changes to the mine survey legislation.

In it, you will find the reason behind why we are taking action, what we propose to do, and how we propose to do it!

We ask that this message gets out to all interested parties, and that everyone take a couple of minutes to do the following;

- Read the document
- Complete the survey
- RSVP for the industry day (19th August – Central TAFE)
- Sign up to the LinkedIn page so you are kept up to date with all of the latest happenings
- Forward the document far and wide!

Our industry sponsors **CR Kennedy** and **Position Partners** have donated some great prizes for two lucky winners, just for completing the survey!

CR Kennedy have come to the party with a Leica Disto D210 with Bluetooth.

Position Partners are helping out with a bombproof RAM mount for your mobile device.

Both prizes will be drawn at the industry day on the **Friday the 19th of August 2016 at 12:30 - Central TAFE (East Perth)**. Please RSVP to survey.industry.response@gmail.com

Kind regards

Western Australian Mine Surveyors



Communique Regarding the Mine Survey Industry Response to Proposed Legislative Changes

This bulletin is to serve as a means of disseminating, proposed changes to the existing Mine Safety and Inspection Act (1994) and Regulations (1995), potential impacts on mine safety and mine surveying practices.

On the 27th of May 2016, a group of concerned practicing mine surveyors met with the Department of Mines and Petroleum, as industry representatives in an effort to achieve the following;

- Gain a better understanding of the proposed changes & assess risks of the changes
- What the mine survey industry can do, to ensure protection of the minimum standards, mine safety, and the integrity of the profession in any new proposed legislation.

This meeting was called and attended by;

- Concerned mining industry practicing surveyors
- Senior surveyors from mining & commercial companies
- Representatives of AIMS and SSSI
- DMP Mine Survey Board (MSB) members

All have a keen interest in protecting the valuable safety achievements gained during the mining boom and are looking to play a part in shaping the future of mine surveying in Western Australia, with the intent of enhancing the professional standing of the vocation.

The key points of the proposed changes can be summarized by the following;

- Moving from prescriptive (*you shall do this*) to risk based legislation (*what are your risks and how are you going to manage them?*)
- Moving to a Mine Safety Management System
 - Prepared by mine management
 - Risk assessment conducted regarding the requirements and accuracies of mine plans required
 - Mine management to appoint a surveyor that satisfies that risk assessment (based on minimum experience and education requirements as per current requirements)
- Disbanding the Mine Survey Board as a means of ensuring technical competency for safety related mine surveying responsibilities
- The DMP would certainly look favorably to industry to fill the gap of the Mine Survey Board in determining competency “appointed” surveyor
- The DMP would certainly welcome guidance from the Mine Survey industry regarding positive changes to the regulations

During a question and answer session, the following items were noted;

- The Mine Survey Board is to be congratulated for its efforts over the last 4 years in implementing oral exams in an effort to lift standards. Concern that removal of scrutiny by the MSB will be to the detriment of mine safety – motion seconded by way of a show of hands by all industry representatives in the room.
- Concern that if up to 50% of applicants have been determined as unsuitable, how self-regulation would improve on that proportion of competency, i.e. safety impacts of reducing competency scrutiny.
- Concern that a mine manager may, or may not be capable of determining technical competencies on qualifications and experience alone (i.e. we expect they would need support to do this).
- Timeline for implementation – determined by access to parliament for the legislation, political will, election etc. Not expected before June 2017 at the earliest.
- Discussion around level of experience required to be an appointed surveyor – some discussion of lifting the requirement to three years.

- Discussion around preserving the three-year qualification and ensuring international qualifications are up to standard.
- Discussion around assisting the DMP conduct audits, in terms of preparing check lists and training inspectors.
- Discussion that the proposed changes are a positive step for the survey industry
- Discussion that Mine Surveyors have an opportunity to set the standard, through input to the DMP with regard to the new legislation
- Discussion around a general concept that competency be determined by a professional industry body (AIMS? SSSI?)
- Discussions around the introduction of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a way of maintaining authorization, enhancing engagement and increasing professionalism.

A list of action items were drawn up as per below;

1. Committee to be formedⁱ to identify risks in determining surveyor technical competency by alternate means & the impacts on mine safety & appointed mine manager
2. Committee to formulate a communique explaining events and proposed action with an accompanying survey to gauge interest and commitment from the mine survey industry
3. AIMS & SSSI to consider jointly hosting an industry day (August), aimed at disseminating information and forming a joint industry response (Industry, Educators, AIMS, SSSI)
4. Approach other professional bodies (eg. AusIMM) to see what experience they might have with similar circumstances.

Action item one and two, are complete.

Action item three - **The industry day will be held on Friday the 19th of August 2016 at 12:30 at Central TAFE (East Perth). Please RSVP to survey.industry.response@gmail.com. Your attendance and input is most welcome. An agenda is to follow in the coming weeks.**

Action item four - Approaches have been made to industry bodies Australia wide to seek feedback and advice going forward.

Please take the time to complete the survey below which will assist the committee with shaping the industry day and ensuring that we have a truly representative response to the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Mine_Regs_Feedback

Also, please consider joining the following LinkedIn page for up-to-date information regarding developments.

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8547122>

ⁱ Sub Committee Members

- **Anthony Ricciardi** – Mine Surveyor LAND SURVEYS – aricciardi@landsurveys.net.au
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