

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 428

asked on Tuesday, 19 May 2020

**MR D LAST** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, MINES AND ENERGY (HON DR A LYNHAM)—

QUESTION:

With reference to workplace health and safety in Queensland mines—

Will the Minister provide an update in the format of the answer to Question on Notice No.1045 and advise for 2018-19 and 2019-20 (reported separately by year) (a) number of infringements notices issued, (b) a breakdown of reasons for these infringements being issued and (c) what actions are taken to follow up on these infringement notices?

ANSWER:

The Mines Inspectorate in Resources Safety and Health has no powers under legislation to issue infringement notices; however, a 'directive' or a 'substandard condition or practice notice' is issued to a mine or quarry to address an identified safety issue or non-compliance.

(a) Directives and substandard condition or practice notices issued by financial year

Financial year	Directives	Substandard condition or practice
2018-19	435	1139
2019-20	357*	941*

\*as of 15 June 2020

In 2018-19, the Mines Inspectorate conducted the "Campaign for Change", which was focussed on effective guarding, isolation and mobile plant maintenance. A firm stance on these issues resulted in a higher number of substandard condition or practice notices being issued to quarries for that period; however, it is forecast that, at the end of the 2019-20 period, the total number of directives and substandard condition or practice notices will remain generally steady with last year's figures.

(b) The top three reasons for directives being issued are shown below:

**2018-19 financial year**

Mineral mines and quarries		Coal mines	
Reduce risk	53%	Reduce risk	40%
Suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	22%	Review safety and health management system and principal hazard management plans	37%
Review safety and health management system	18%	Suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	16%

**2019-20 financial year as at 15 June 2020**

<b>Mineral Mines and Quarries</b>		<b>Coal Mines</b>	
Reduce risk	50%	Reduce risk	36%
Suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	25%	Review safety and health management system and principal hazard management plans	31%
Review safety and health management system	16%	Suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	22%

Substandard condition or practice notices are issued where an inspector identifies improvement actions that should be taken at a mine or quarry, within a specified timeframe, as a proactive measure to prevent risk from exceeding unacceptable levels.

- (c) Directives and substandard condition or practice notices are monitored and tracked in the Mines Inspectorate database. The site senior executive and or operator is required under legislation to provide the Mines Inspectorate with confirmation of actions undertaken to comply with directives issued. If the Mines Inspectorate deems that appropriate action has not been taken by the senior site executive or operator, further action may be taken, including shutting down all or part of a site or all or part of its operations where the risk level is unacceptable.