



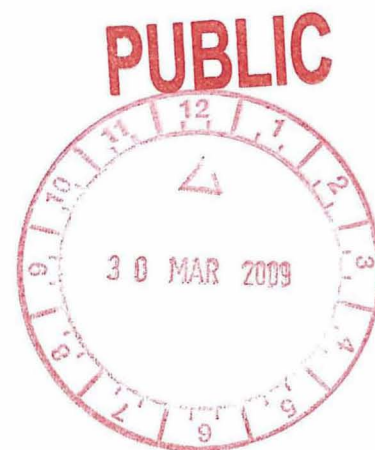
Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**  
Resources Safety

Your ref:

Our ref: RSD0030/2009

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Hon Sue Ellery MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Ellery

## **INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC SECTOR EXPENDITURE**

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2009 in relation to the transfer of the Mines Safety Inspectorate to the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

As background information I would like to advise that the Mines Safety Inspectorate is part of the Resources Safety Division (RSD). RSD was formed in 2005 and has responsibility for the implementation of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*, the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and for administration of occupational safety and health in relation to the onshore petroleum industry.

With the formation of the new Department of Mines and Petroleum on 1 January 2009, RSD was transferred from the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection.


The Resources Safety Division was never part of the WorkSafe Division of the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection as it operated under, and administered, separate legislation.

With regard to the specific questions in your letter of 11 March 2009 I would like to advise as follows:

- (1) Inspectors appointed under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* are now employed by the Department of Mines and Petroleum. They are employed in the Resources Safety Division of the new department. The mining inspectors were not previously employed by Worksafe. The transfer to the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 1 January 2009 did not involve any physical relocation of staff.

- (2) The Department of Mines and Petroleum has been created as the lead agency in regulating mining and petroleum activities in WA.
- (3) There has been no change in the budget allocation for the Resources Safety Division as a result of the transfer to the Department of Mines and Petroleum. Two groups within the Division (Mines Safety and Health Management) have primary responsibility for administration of the *Mines Safety Inspection Act 1994*. The operational budget allocated to these two groups is \$6.82M for the 2008/2009 year and additional support is provided, when appropriate, from other branches within the Division.
- (4) There has been no cost saving achieved by transferring the operational Branches that administer the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* to the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

Yours sincerely



Tim Griffin  
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

27 March 2009

Parl Inquiry (4).doc - Perth

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