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Leading NSW Mine Safety body meets in Wollongong

The peak OHS body for the State's \$23 billion mining and extractives industry, the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC) will meet in Wollongong tomorrow as part of its on-going commitment to communicate with regional mining communities in NSW.

Council chairman Norman Jennings said the Council is focused on its goal of world-leading OHS for the State's mining industry and is made up of senior officials from Industry & Investment NSW, two independent experts in OHS, the CFMEU, AWU, NSW Minerals Council, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia.

"By meeting in key mining areas such as the Illawarra, the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council MSAC is helping to spread the message that while we have an excellent mine safety record in our State, we are working hard to ensure that NSW will be a world leader in mine safety," Mr Jennings said.

"The industry is committed to fostering a world-leading OHS culture in NSW mining and this Council is driving this.

"A key advantage of the Council is its tripartite membership. All the members, from the industry, unions and government, are united in driving the changes that will enable NSW to achieve world-leading OHS culture and performance," he said.

MSAC has agreed and published information that outlines its vision and strategy for culture change in the mining industry.

A number of key resources, such as guides for managing fatigue, health and musculoskeletal disorders, have been published to assist the industry in achieving improved OHS performances.

"One of our most recent initiatives has been to open up a discussion within the industry about opportunities to further enhance OHS outcomes by better incorporation of non-technical skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication," Mr Jennings said.

"MSAC has also made significant progress in addressing other important OHS issues, such as fatigue and the unintended negative effects of safety incentive schemes."

Information on World-leading OHS is available from the Industry & Investment NSW's website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/world-leading-ohs

Media note: A media opportunity will be available at 10am Thursday at Coal Services/Southern Mines Rescue, 558-580 Princess Highway Woonona.

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