Work Health and Safety Advisory Council

*Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act*

Annual Report 2014-2015
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Function and Purpose of the Advisory Council

The Work Health and Safety Advisory Council (WHSAC) is a tripartite body, established to provide advice on the administration of the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act (the Act) and standards of work health and safety in the Northern Territory.

In accordance with schedule 2(3) of the Act, the functions of the Council are:

(a) to keep under review the operation of this Act;

(b) to make recommendations to the Minister on possible changes to:

(i) the administration of this Act; or

(ii) standards of work health and safety in the Northern Territory;

(c) at the request of the Minister, to investigate and report to the Minister on matters relating to work health and safety; and

(d) to perform any other advisory functions relating to work health and safety as the Minister directs.

Membership of the Advisory Council

Schedule 2(4) of the Act outlines membership of the Council as follows:

(1) The Council consists of:

(a) the person constituting the Authority under section 4(3) of the Work Health Administration Act; and

(b) not more than 10 other persons appointed by the Minister.

(2) The members appointed under subclause (1)(b) must:

(a) include persons with a wide range of experience extending as far as possible across all major industry sectors in the Territory; and

(b) as far as practicable, consist of equal numbers of representatives of organisations representing employees.

There is no legislative requirement for meetings to be held on a regular basis.
Members of the Council for 2014-2015

Mr Mark Crossin, CrossInnovate Consulting – Chair

Mr Crossin is the managing partner of CrossInnovate Consulting, which specialises in government relations, workers compensation, work health and safety, policy, research, business and financial planning as well as human resource management. Mr Crossin was Deputy Chair of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Advisory Council, a member of the Scheme Monitoring Committee and was one of the consultants engaged to undertake a review of the Workers’ Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.

Mr Paul Baxter, Paul Baxter and Associates – Deputy Chair

Mr Baxter has over 35 years’ experience in the construction industry at management level, with experience in all facets of the industry. Mr Baxter has been the Managing Director of P.W. Baxter and Associates for the past 30 years.

Mr Stephen Gelding, NT WorkSafe – Work Health Authority

Throughout 2014-2015, Mr Gelding was the Work Health Authority and the Northern Territory representative for Safe Work Australia.

Ms Louise Bilato, NT Road Transport Association

Ms Bilato is the Executive Officer of the NT Road Transport Association, which represents all major road transport employers in the NT. Ms Bilato has extensive experience in the road transport industry in both a training and advisory capacity. For over 20 years she has also been the Managing Director of a small business delivering psychological and counselling services as well as injury and fatigue risk management services throughout the NT. From 1999 to 2008, Ms Bilato was also a member of the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Advisory Council.

Mr Ian McMurtrie, Top End Safety Solutions

Mr McMurtrie is the Managing Director of Top End Safety Solutions. He has over 20 years’ experience in operating and managing businesses throughout Australia. Mr McMurtrie’s experience covers a wide range of sectors including agriculture, retail, wholesale, manufacturing and construction industries.

Mr Justin Gill, Housing Industry Association

Mr Gill is a well-respected, award-winning Northern Territory residential builder, who has received multiple Housing Industry Association (HIA), Master Builders Association and Telstra Business awards. Mr Gill has represented HIA on the combines Resource and Construction Committee for a number of years and has been active in establishing and maintaining a useful channel of communication between the Northern Territory Government and HIA.
Mr Arthur Hamilton, Shorelands Group

Mr Hamilton has worked and managed businesses in the Northern Territory since 1979 and played a pivotal role in changing the culture of safety in the transport, logistics, and oil and gas industries.

Mr John Schofield, Territory Systems Management Pty Ltd

Mr Schofield has a range of experience across a variety of industry sectors including health, education, construction, manufacturing services as well as government and administration.

Ms Belinda Howie, Consulting Direct

Ms Howie manages a small and medium enterprise advisory practice that offers businesses effective business management and improvement strategies. Ms Howie has a wide range of best practice regulatory experience across many industry sectors.

Mr Brian Fowler, Arafura Resources

Mr Fowler is the General Manager Northern Territory and Sustainability, Arafura Resources Ltd and the nominated representative of the Minerals Council of Australia (NT Division). Mr Fowler is chair of the Minerals Council of Australia (NT Division) Occupational Health and Safety Committee, a member of the NT Division Management Committee and a member of the NT Mining Board.

Mr Adam Gollow, Chandler Macleod

Mr Gollow is the Regional Director for the Chandler Macleod Group in the Northern Territory, with responsibility for over 200 employees across 57 companies in various industry sectors. Chandler Macleod is one of the two largest Australian owned workforce management companies in the nation.
Activities of the Advisory Council for 2014-2015

The Council met on two occasions during 2014-2015:

- 22 August 2014
- 28 November 2014

In 2014-15, the Council has addressed or considered:

- regular updates and feedback on the national model work health and safety laws;
- regular updates and feedback on the activities of Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) and Safe Work Australia (SWA), including NT participation in national educational campaigns;
- NT WorkSafe communications activity including proposed safety handbooks, information bulletins, safety alerts, website material, Safe Work Week activities and community safety awareness sessions;
- statistical data relating to work health and safety compliance and enforcement activity;
- activities of industry committees;
- the Inter-Agency Asbestos Management Working Group which reviews asbestos management in the Northern Territory from a whole of Government perspective;
- a proposal with recommendations for reform of the White Card training;
- road train operations in Darwin City;
- medical evacuation cost implications; and
- the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) review.

Planned Activities of the Advisory Council for 2014-2015

The Council is currently under review pending proposed amendments to the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act.

Committees

Schedule 2 (10) of the Act provides for the Council to establish committees as required:

1. The Council may establish committees to assist it to carry out its functions.
2. A committee has the functions conferred on it by the Council.
3. A committee may be constituted:
   - (a) entirely of members of the Council establishing it; or
   - (b) partly of members of the Council and partly of other persons; or
   - (c) entirely of other persons.
4. A committee member holds office on the conditions (including remuneration, expenses and allowances) determined by the Minister.
5. A committee must keep records of its proceedings.
6. Subject to this Act and any directions of the Council establishing it, a committee may determine its own procedures.
The Work Health and Safety Advisory Council decided that its committees would be industry based and identified the following as relevant industry based committees:

- Agriculture and Primary Industries;
- Combined Resource and Construction;
- Health and Community Services; and
- Transport and Storage

### Agriculture and Primary Industries Committee

Membership of the Agriculture and Primary Industries Committee for 2014-15 comprised:

- **Ian McMurtrie (Chair)**
  Managing Director
  Top End Safety Solutions

- **Grant Fenton**
  Chief Executive Officer
  NT Farmers Association

- **Katherine Sarnekis**
  Chief Executive Officer
  NT Seafood Council

- **Bruce McKinley**
  Principal Workplace Inspector
  NT WorkSafe

- **Luke Bowan**
  Executive Director
  NT Cattlemen’s Association

- **Vicki Aurisch**
  Executive Officer
  Primary Industries Training Advisory Council (NT)

With the following representatives from the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries attending as required:

- **Andrew Tomkins**
  Director Biosecurity & Product Integrity

- **Bruce Sawyer**
  Director, Research and Demonstration Farms

The Agriculture and Primary Industries Committee met on one occasion during 2014-15:

- 1 August 2014

In 2014-15, the Agriculture and Primary Industries Committee has addressed or considered:

- sector incident and injury data in the Northern Territory;
- Northern Territory participation in the HWSA National Agriculture campaign, with a focus on the cattle industry;
- the Work Health and Safety Handbook for the NT Commercial Fishing Industry; and
- the increased cost of medical evacuations and the resulting impact on workers compensation insurance premiums.
Combined Resource and Construction Committee

Membership of the Combined Resource and Construction Committee for 2014-15 comprised:

- **Brian Fowler (Chair)**
  General Manager NT and Sustainability
  Arafura Resources Ltd

- **Justin Gill (Chair)**
  Director
  Abode New Homes

- **Dean Chambeyron**
  Regional Manager
  Housing Industry Association

- **Scott Woodrow**
  Manager
  Quality Training & Assessment Services

- **Barry Adams**
  Sole Trader
  Advanced Training International

- **Paul Kirby**
  Union Official
  Electrical Trades Union

- **Greg Bicknall**
  Chief Executive Officer
  Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- **Roland Cummins**
  NT Branch Organiser
  CFMEU

- **Tom Harris**
  Chief Executive Officer
  Extractive Industry Association of the NT

- **Jim Eadie**
  Construction Manager
  SUNBUILD

- **Neil Burgess**
  Director Operations
  NT WorkSafe

- **Robin Smith**
  Principal Inspector - Electrical
  NT WorkSafe

The Combined Resource and Construction Committee met on one occasion during 2014-15:

- 14 November 2014

In 2014-15, the Combined Resources and Construction Committee considered:

- the ongoing requirement for Construction White Card modification and the Vocational and Educational Training Reform (the Australian Government’s overhaul of the skills and training system).
Health and Community Services Committee

Membership of the Health and Community Services Committee for 2014-15 comprised:

- **John Schofield (Chair)**
  Director
  Territory Systems Management Pty Ltd

- **Matthew Gardiner**
  Secretary
  United Voice

- **Louise Fitzmaurice**
  Territory Director
  Good Start Early Learning

- **Jan Marlborough**
  NT Regional Manager
  ECH

- **Raelene Burke**
  Senior Director Human Resources
  Department of Health

- **Belinda Howie**
  Managing Director Consulting Direct

- **Karen Clarke**
  Manager WHS Unit
  Department of Health

- **Yvonne Falckh**
  NT Branch Secretary
  Australian Nursing Midwifery Federation

- **Garry Lambert**
  Executive Manager Support Services
  NT General Practice Education

- **Robyn Simpson**
  Regional Manager
  Australian Regional and Remote Community Services

- **Mella Martin-Hewitt**
  Workforce and Learning Development
  Department of Children and Families

- **Rebecca Trimble**
  Principal Workplace Inspector
  NT WorkSafe

The Health and Community Services Committee met on one occasion during 2014-15:

- 7 November 2014

In 2014-15, the Health and Community Services Committee has addressed or considered:

- sector incident and injury data in the Northern Territory;
- the NT WorkSafe Prevention and Management of Aggression in Health Services Survey result and report;
Transport and Storage Committee

Membership of the Transport and Storage Committee for 2014-15 comprised:

- **Louise Bilato (Chair)**
  Executive Officer
  NT Road Transport
  Association

- **Tomas Mayor**
  NT Branch Organiser
  Maritime Union of Australia

- **Barbara Littler**
  Assistant Director
  Department of Transport

- **Clare Ellis**
  Marine Compliance Manager
  Broadsword Marine Contractors

- **Simon Saunders**
  Director Transport Compliance
  Department of Transport

- **Allan Fischer**
  Senior Workplace Inspector
  NT WorkSafe

The Transport and Storage Committee did not meet during 2014-15:
Addendum to the 2014-2015 Annual Report

NT WorkSafe wishes to advise that the following information was inadvertently omitted from the Work Health and Safety Advisory Council 2014-2015 Annual Report.

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The Transport and Storage Committee met on one occasion during 2014-15 and held one combined meeting with the Agriculture and Primary Industry Committee:

- 22 July 2014 – Transport and Storage Committee meeting
- 13 November 2014 – Combined meeting with the Agriculture and Primary Industry Committee

In 2014-15, the Transport and Storage Committee considered:

- sector incident and injury data for the Northern Territory;
- safety issues at Fisherman’s Wharf;
- traffic management issues at East Arm Wharf;
- the collapse of a section of Hudson Creek Wharf;
- an update from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator; and
- the introduction of infringement notices for boats.

In 2014-15, the combined Transport, Storage, Agriculture and Primary Industry Committee considered:

- sector incident and injury data for the Northern Territory;
- quad bike safety;
- increased costs for medical evacuations;
- Northern Territory participation in national safety campaigns;
- the finalisation of the PISAFE project; and
- the national review of the VET sector to review the quality of training provided.