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Dear

Model Work Health and Safety Mining Public Comment Period

Safe Work Australia is the principal national organisation driving policy development in work health and safety with the aim of achieving the best possible approach to health and safety for all Australian workers.

To achieve this objective, Safe Work Australia represents a partnership between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, the Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Australian Industry Group.

The Commonwealth, state and territory governments have formally committed to the implementation of the model work health and safety laws by 1 January 2012.

To support the Model Work Health and Safety Act, Safe Work Australia, in conjunction with the National Mine Safety Framework (NMSF) will release a suite of materials relating to mining legislation.

The NMSF is an initiative of the Ministerial Council on Mineral and Petroleum Resources, which aims to establish a nationally consistent work health and safety regime in the mining industry.

The table below outlines the timing and materials that will be released as part of the mining public comment period.

Release date	Public comment period	Public comment closes	Materials to be released for public comment
15 July 2011	8 weeks	9 Sept 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model WHS Regulations – Mining Issues Paper
15 July 2011	12 weeks	7 Oct 2011	model Codes of Practice for mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Health and Safety Management Systems Managing Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials Strata Control for Underground Coal Mines Roads and Other Vehicles Operating Areas Inundation and Inrush Hazard Management Emergency Response for Australian Mines Mine records
29 July 2011	6 weeks	9 Sept 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS)
29 July 2011	10 weeks	7 Oct 2011	model Codes of Practice for mining <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and Drafting Directions for Mine Surveyors Mine Closure Ground Control in Underground Mines Health Surveillance in Mining Ventilation of Underground Mines Ground Control for Open Pits Underground Winding Systems



Chair
Mr Tom Phillips AM

The public comment period provides an opportunity for individuals and organisations to participate in the development of mining legislation supporting the model Work Health and Safety Act.

The draft mining legislation has been developed to ensure a consistent approach is taken to regulation in the mining industry. The intention is to harmonise 'core' work health and safety laws on mining while allowing for supplementary 'non-core' provision to be made as appropriate. This will accommodate high-risk mining activities including underground coal mining.

We need your support to ensure model work health and safety legislation remains relevant and applicable to all Australian businesses and workers.

To view the details of the mining public comment period and for more information on how to submit comments visit www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

I look forward to working with you on these important issues that impact all Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Phillips".

Tom Phillips AM
Chair
Safe Work Australia
8 July 2011