

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

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MEDIA RELEASE

MINE WORKERS TO BENEFIT FROM WORLD LEADING SAFETY TRAINING TECHNOLOGY

NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) Chief Executive Officer, Dr Nikki Williams, has dismissed public statements made by the ACTU, AWU, CFMEU and the Federal Opposition Leader, that mine safety training in NSW - provided by Coal Services Pty Ltd - is illegal under new Federal industrial relations laws.

Dr Williams said that the facts of the matter were quite straightforward.

“Nothing in the Federal legislation prohibits OH&S training and such training may be delivered by a range of providers. Furthermore, the minerals industry’s commitment to OH&S training and initiatives is not determined by whether workers are operating under Enterprise Based Agreements or individual contracts under new Australian Workplace Agreements.”

The advice that the NSWMC has received is that the operation of mine safety training of this kind is not affected in any way by the new Federal workplace legislation. NSWMC has also been given written assurances by CSPL of its “commitment to ensuring that sufficient resources continue to be provided to research, develop and improve the current training programs for the industry.”

The virtual reality mine safety training facility at Argenton in Lake Macquarie, to be launched publicly in July, was developed under the auspices of Coal Services (CSPL), which whilst jointly owned by NSWMC and the CFMEU, is 100% financed by the coal mining companies.

Dr Williams said that “claims that this commitment is under threat are incorrect and mischievous.”

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