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MEDIA RELEASE

NSWMC SEEKS EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MINE SAFETY REFORMS

The peak minerals industry body in NSW has welcomed the decision by the lemma Government to implement the recommendations of the Wran Mine Safety Review.

The Chief Executive of the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC), Dr Nikki Williams, said the NSW minerals industry was committed to achieving the highest standards of safety performance and the creation of a genuine culture of safety responsibility.

“Safety is the number one priority of the NSW minerals industry. We are committed to zero injury mining in NSW,” Dr Williams said.

“NSWMC seeks the implementation of the most efficient and effective reforms possible to further improve safety in the industry while minimising unnecessary costs and duplication.

“While the industry supports the direction of the Wran Review, we are concerned about specific costs and elements of the new Bill introduced to deliver some of these reforms”.

The Mines Safety (Cost Recovery) Bill 2005 introduced into Parliament last week will establish a new mine safety fund levied on the minerals industry in NSW to resource the safety regulatory activities of DPI. NSWMC is involved in detailed consultations with the Government over the application and implementation of this proposed legislation.

The industry is concerned at the unnecessary costs imposed by the Mine Safety (Cost Recovery) Bill 2005 and the potential for regulatory and administrative duplication between the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and other industry specific statutory bodies.

The rate of workplace injuries and fatalities in the NSW minerals industry has been steadily falling since the mid 1980s – the result of significant contributions from all major stakeholders – the mining companies, their contractors and suppliers, the trade unions, governments, industry associations and others involved in and with the industry.

The NSW Mine Safety Review, completed in February 2005, was chaired by former NSW Premier, the Hon Neville Wran AC QC, and released a wide range of recommendations to further improve the culture of mine safety in the NSW minerals industry.

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