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## Putting an end to complacency

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Welcome to the first MinEx newsletter of 2020.

I have to say it's not been a good start to the year to hear a [Radio NZ news story](#) that workplace fatalities have been found to be 40% higher than what's been reported.

WorkSafe reported 42 work-related deaths in 2018; but now it's adding in ACC figures from police, aviation and boating sources; which takes the total to 64. Across the years 2013-2018, the new total of workplace fatalities is 413, not the 291 notified to WorkSafe. What's more, this changes the focus of the biggest workplace risk area; it's not farming or forestry or construction – but transport.

The Transport/Postal/Warehousing sector, accounts for more than a quarter of fatalities over the last five reported years, mostly truck and machinery crashes. Some of those, regrettably, have been in the extractive sector. What this underlines is, we as an industry cannot be complacent. It comes as no real surprise that WorkSafe has now started doing quarterly reports on our industry, which includes some commentary on many serious incidents involving vehicles. (See next story.)

After what has seemed to be an eternity reviewing the Health and Safety (Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations) Regulations, the Government has finally agreed on changes which will see proportionality reflected in the regs (one size does not fit all) and sensible inclusion of quarries and alluvials. We are generally pleased with the changes and the fact that Government have listened to our concerns. It is now likely that new regulations will be in place by August 2020.

The message is clear as we enter a new year and a new decade. We all need to increase

our efforts; there are no unavoidable injuries, just lapses in performance and processes which can bring about tragic consequences. Join me in a New Year resolution to making it our first priority to keep ourselves, our staff and our colleagues safe every day.

I trust this first MinEx newsletter for the year will provide you with some assistance towards that most important of goals.

Stay safe,

Wayne Scott  
CEO, MinEx & AQA

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## WorkSafe puts us on report

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WORKSAFE

Just before Christmas, WorkSafe's Chief Inspector Extractives Paul Hunt issued the [first edition](#) of what will now be a quarterly report on the extractives sector. He says it brings together all the wealth of information that WorkSafe collects – and provides an information bank for the industry to draw on.

Across the reports 26 pages, are various commentaries and graphs detailing what is happening across the 1322 active quarrying (1,209) and mining operations (plus four tunnels) across New Zealand. Details include notifiable events over the last year (51 in quarries/alluvial mines, 40 in mines) and a whole range of data about time off work, costs and types of events.

Paul Hunt makes some particular comments here: *"Over the last year there have been several incidents that have resulted in serious injuries, but most concerning is that there have been a number of events that could easily have been fatalities. Many of the serious incidents have involved mobile plant –*

*interaction of vehicle to vehicle, or significant mechanical failings or fires. There were also a number of falls from height, one of more than 4m, and several of which could have resulted in fatalities."* He pulls no punches on what this means: *"Industry should take note of the data which dispels any notion that the industry is improving and becoming safer. Over the last few years the data shows an increase of notifiable events and more injuries. That there have been no fatalities is a result of luck. There have been a number of events which resulted in significant injuries and also a series of events where all controls had failed and workers only avoided serious harm or death through good fortune."*

When the Chief Inspector Extractives is telling the extractives sector that only luck has prevented fatalities from happening in recent times, he is publicly signalling that any residual tolerance from the regulator is at an end for quarries and mines that rely on luck to keep their people safe.

either loss of control, interaction of  
vehicles with pedestrians,

We are all on notice.

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## Cabinet decisions on implementation review released

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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

In December 2019 Cabinet agreed to changes to the mining and quarrying regulations, which will complete the work to improve New Zealand's health and safety regime for mines and quarries that began after the 2010 Pike River tragedy.

The Cabinet paper and minute for ***Health and Safety in Mines and Quarries: Proposed Regulatory Changes*** has been released and is available to read, along with a summary of the changes, on MBIE's website [here](#).

These changes will:

- Bring quarries and alluvial mines into the risk-management framework outlined in the regulations, which will require quarries with similar risks to mines, to manage these risks in the same ways, and;
- Fix some technical matters to ensure the regulations are proportionate for different types of mines; keep workers safe, and continue to work in the future.

The changes were identified in the implementation review undertaken by MBIE in 2018 and 2019. The review had input from key stakeholders in the mining, tunnelling and quarrying industries, and found that:

- There was a case for further hazard management of quarries and alluvial mines in the regulations, and;
- The regulations as they related to mines are robust, but that aspects of the regulations are operating in a disproportionate way, imposing processes and costs on lower-risk mines in a way that was not intended in 2013.

MBIE will work with WorkSafe to develop the regulations and determine suitable transition periods for some of the key changes. A targeted exposure draft will be released to key industry stakeholders before the regulations are finalised mid-2020.

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## MinEx Workshops resume

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One of the key things MinEx does to help you get up to speed with health and safety is our now annual series of regional workshops.

This year we are heading to wine country - Marlborough on - Wednesday 26th February for the first of our 16 regional sessions. These will continue until 6th October in Whakatane.

The focus will be on Operating & Safety Systems, Leadership and Legislation. A WorkSafe inspector attends each workshop and I acknowledge the support of IOQ and all of our sponsors.

Full workshop details [here](#).



**Providing effective industry representation in health and safety**

**Support us and help make the New Zealand mining and quarry industry safer.**

**[www.minex.org.nz](http://www.minex.org.nz)**



The Minerals Sector Awards is an opportunity to recognise, reward, and celebrate excellence within the minerals and mining sector. This includes coal, gold, iron sands, industrial minerals, aggregates and a range of other minerals. Entries close 25th March. For further details click [here](#). This year there are four awards categories:



#### **Health and Safety Initiative Award**

The strongest overall demonstration of excellence in a health and safety initiative carried out by a New Zealand operator in the minerals sector.

Open to New Zealand mine and quarry owners including past and present operators and explorers.

#### **Innovation Award**

The strongest overall demonstration of innovation by a New Zealand operator or, service company in conjunction with an operator, in the minerals sector.

Open to New Zealand mine and quarry owners including past and present operators and explorers, or service companies in conjunction with an operator.

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### **Environmental Management Award**

The strongest overall demonstration of excellent environmental management and preservation by a New Zealand operator in the minerals sector.

Open to New Zealand mine and quarry owners including past and present operators and explorers.

### **Community Initiative Award**

Outstanding initiatives that have been demonstrably beneficial to both the organisation and community (school, iwi group, land owner etc) involved.

Open to New Zealand mine and quarry owners including past and present operators and explorers.



### **Borrowing from the Brits**

As a small organisation, MinEx is never shy about borrowing good documents and information from other sources.

The latest we've put on the MinEx website comes from the Quarries National Joint Advisory Committee (QNJAC) for Britain.

QNJAC, like MinEx, focuses on promoting the health and safety in all sectors of the quarrying and associated industries. Like us, QNJAC is committed to making the industry a safer place, through the raising of training standards and competence.

It's a tripartite body consisting of UK based quarrying companies, unions and the H&S regulator (HSE). Recently, QNJAC has developed a self-audit tool for Site Energy Isolation.

This is an excellent tool and you can now find it on the MinEx website under Regulations & Guidelines or download [here](#). The QNJAC [website](#) also contains a number of other excellent guidance documents.



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