



Lightning Ridge Miners' Association Ltd.

ABN 36 001 204 726

**P O Box 177
3 Morilla Street
LIGHTNING RIDGE NSW 2834**

**Phone: (02) 6829 0427
Email: manager.lrma@bigpond.com**

17 May 2021

Executive Director
Resources Regulator

By email: rr.feedback@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Discussion Paper: Amendments to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 and Regulation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the discussion paper in regards to amendments to the Work Health and Safety (Mines and Petroleum Sites) Act 2013 and Regulation.

The Lightning Ridge Miners' Association Ltd (LRMA) notes that the majority of the recommendations and issues do not impact upon the opal mining industry and consequently its comments will be limited to just a few.

The LRMA supports Recommendation 14 in regards to specifying penalty units rather than amounts. However it does not support the automatic indexing to the CPI as over time the penalty could grow to be disproportionate to the offence. The CPI can be used as a guide however it should not be automatic or compulsory.

The LRMA supports Recommendation 18 and strongly advocates the broadening of exemptions in Clause 184 for small gemstone mines to include low risk 'tier 3' mines sites such as small surface gravel pits used not only by Councils but other operators as well. There are a number in this area such as one the LRMA uses to extract gravel sporadically for repairing mining tracks. The rules and regulations are disproportionate to the level of risk of these small gravel pits/quarries.

In regards to Issue 6 the LRMA supports amending Clause 7B of the WHS (MPS) Regulation to include a requirement that at least one person present at the mine when mining activity is taking place has undertaken the relevant safety training.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary/Manager