

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 143

asked on Wednesday, 6 March 2014

MR KNUTH ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR CRIPPS)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise of any plans to implement processes that would enforce the safe storage and digital recording of historical and current mine plans, so that a comprehensive knowledge base can be compiled and retained for the Queensland Mining Industry and used for future town planning and mining to ensure safety and best use of land?

ANSWER:

Currently, mine plans must be submitted to the chief inspector according to the requirements of section 58 of the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* and section 67 of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*.

Both of these Acts require the submission of plans of mine workings under a number of circumstances, including mine abandonment.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is currently reviewing the management of current, future and historical mine plans, including future digital submission of mine workings plans to the department. This includes consideration of the best format for submission and storage of the plans, and processes for gradually generating digitised copies of historic mine plans.

The regulatory impact statement for the Queensland Mine Safety Framework included a proposal for the management of mine plans. The recent industry consultation process attracted a further four submissions.

These submissions indicate the need for a comprehensive, reliable and integrated approach for the capture and storage of all survey information, including survey information for resources activities, which includes mine workings plans.

A departmental reference group meeting was held on 27 March 2014, as a forerunner to the formation of a wider Mine Plans Working Group, which will meet in the next few months. Discussions on this topic have also been initiated with the Surveyors Board of Queensland and the Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors.