

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 90

asked on Thursday, 25 February 2021

MR D CRISAFULLI ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

With reference to workplace health and safety in Queensland mines—

Will the Minister provide an update in the format of the answer to Question on Notice No. 1045 of 2019 and advise for the period between 30 June 2020 and 1 February 2021 (a) number of infringements notices issued, (b) a breakdown of reasons for these infringements being issued and (c) what actions are taken to follow up these infringement notices?

ANSWER:

As per the responses to Questions on Notice 1045 of 2019, 428 of 2020, and 508 of 2020, the Queensland mining safety and health legislative framework does not provide for the issue of infringement notices; however, mines inspectors issue 'directives' or 'substandard condition or practice notices' to mines or quarries to address safety or health issues, requiring particular actions to be taken within stated timeframes to address the issues.

- (a) For the period between 30 June 2020 and 1 February 2021, the Mines Inspectorate issued a total of 1010 directives and substandard condition or practice notices (259 directives and 751 substandard condition or practice notices).
- (b) The categorisation for directives issued is as follows:

Mineral Mines and Quarries		Coal Mines	
Directive to reduce risk	32%	Directive to reduce risk	44%
Directive to suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	32%	Directive to review safety and health management system and principal hazard management plans	40%
Directive to suspend operations for ineffective safety and health management system	17%	Directive to suspend operations for an unacceptable level of risk	11%
Directive to review safety and health management system	11%	Directive to isolate site	2%
Directive to ensure worker competent	7%	Directive to suspend operations for ineffective safety and health management system	1%
Directive to carry out test	1%	Directive to carry out test	1%
		Directive to ensure coal mine worker competent	1%

Directives and substandard condition or practice notices are monitored and tracked in the Mines Inspectorate database. The site senior executive or operator is required under legislation to provide the Mines Inspectorate with confirmation of actions undertaken to comply. If the Mines Inspectorate deems that appropriate action has not been taken by the senior site executive or operator, further action may be taken, including shutting down all or part of a site or all or part of its operations.