

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 252

asked on Tuesday, 29 March 2022

MR P WEIR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR RESOURCES (HON S STEWART)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the number of (a) mine safety inspections carried out, (b) mine safety breaches, (c) mine safety incidents and (d) the total amount collected in fines for breaches of mine safety regulation, (reported separately for each financial year, since 2018-19)?

ANSWER:

- (a) Resources Safety and Health Queensland publishes details of its delivery of planned compliance activity on its website (www.rshq.qld.gov.au/about-us/resources/publications/compliance-data) on a quarterly basis.
- (b) Queensland's mine safety and health legislation, consistent with modern work health and safety legislative frameworks, is 'risk-based' or 'outcome-based'—that is, it places obligations on persons to achieve outcomes, namely manage risk to acceptable levels, rather than prescribing defined rules for compliance. The rationale for this approach is that no exhaustive set of rules can address every risk—rather, regulated persons must identify risks specific to their operations and implement ways to control risk relevant to their particular operating context. The term 'mine safety breaches' is undefined.
- (c) 'Mine safety incident' is not a defined term in mining safety and health legislation.
- (d) As per this response and the responses to Questions on Notice 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.