

## Question on Notice

No. 233

Asked on 7 March 2024

**MR R KATTER** asked the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (HON G GRACE) –

### QUESTION:

With reference to the recent incident at the Genex Kidston site which resulted in no shut down of operations and no support offered to families or workers after the shift which strongly contrasts with the standards applied to mine sites—

Will the Minister explain (a) why the project was not shut down immediately after the incident, (b) why no appropriate support was offered to the workers and families and (c) whether separate standards exist for renewable projects in Queensland?

### ANSWER:

Incidents involving explosives are regulated under the *Explosives Act 1999*, which is administered by Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ). Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) confirmed RSHQ were aware of the blasting incident and enquiries were being made to ensure compliance with the *Explosives Act 1999*. Questions in relation to action taken in response to the blasting incident can be referred to the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals.

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the WHS Act) requires employers to manage risks to psychological health at work. Upon receiving concerns regarding the risk of psychosocial hazards directly following the incident, WHSQ made enquiries with the site. WHSQ established that an employee assistance program was in place at the time of the incident, including free and confidential counselling and support services accessible to employees and their families. Details of how to access the program and the types of services available were discussed and re-affirmed during an all of site meeting held post incident and are actively promoted across the site.

Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors attended the work site on 20 and 21 March 2024 as part of WHSQ's planned, proactive compliance program of major construction projects. Enquiries into concerns raised with WHSQ regarding worker health and safety confirmed the workplace was complying with the WHS Act.

Renewable projects are subject to the robust provisions of the WHS Act and associated legislative instruments keeping all Queensland workers safe.