

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

28 May 2012

Question: **BR27**
Topic: **Mining Safety**
Proof Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Could you please provide an update on the implementation of the National Mine Safety Database?
2. Has there been delays in its implementation? If so, what are the reasons for the delays?
3. How will it function?
4. Does each state and territory have to provide input into this database?
5. How much has it cost to formulate?
6. How much will it cost to maintain?

Answer:

1. The development of the National Mine Safety Database is complete. The National Mine Safety Framework (NMSF) Data Working Group is currently conducting User Acceptance Testing, to be finalised by end July 2012, before the commencement of a series of national training workshops planned for September/October 2012. The national database website will “go-live” at the conclusion of the national training.
2. The national database was expected to “go-live” on 1 July 2012, in order for 2012-13 to be the first full reporting year. However, as a consequence of delays to the finalisation and enactment of the model Work Health and Safety Act and the model Work Health and Safety Regulations for Mining, the legislative requirement to collect incident data will not be in place by 1 July 2012 and it will therefore not be possible for 2012-13 to be a full reporting year.
3. The National Mine Safety Database is an online system, through which mine sites will be required to input incident data in a nationally consistent manner. Users will be set up with a log-in and password, which will provide them with access to specific parts of the system, depending on whether they are a mine site user; a mining company user; or a regulatory user.

A mine site user will be able to create and view incident reports for a specific mine site; a mining company user will be able to create and view incident reports for mine sites linked to that company; and a regulatory user will be able to view and amend incident reports for mine sites in their jurisdiction. When an incident report is submitted by a mine site, an automatic notification is generated to alert the relevant regulator of the report. The report is then reviewed by the regulator – and either rejected if there is an error or further information is required and an alert sent back to the mine site; or verified.

Once the data is verified, it forms part of a separate “reporting” database, which can be used to generate statistical reports. Access to this information is also based on the user type: a mine site will be able to access detailed information about their mine site for comparison with state and national aggregated data; a mining company user will be able to access detailed information about its mine sites against state and national aggregated data; and each regulatory user will be able to access detailed information about all mines in its jurisdiction, and aggregated data for other states and nationally.

The national database website also has a public area through which anyone will be able to access the site to generate statistical reports based on state and national aggregated data. This will provide the public with access to real-time data on incident types; severities and causes, broken down by sector, state and/or commodity.

4. All mine sites in each state and territory will be required to submit incident reports into the National Mine Safety Database.
5. The development of the National Mine Safety Database has cost \$911,750 in total. This includes \$473,500 for the development of the system, and \$438,250 for the establishment of the hosting environment. The contract for the development of the system was awarded on the basis of a competitive open tender process finalised in April 2011.
6. The National Mine Safety Database will cost \$280,000 per annum to maintain, this includes both the system maintenance and the hosting environment costs.