

To: Dan Hunt  
 Director-General

From: Stewart Bell  
 Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health  
 Deputy Director-General  
 Safety and Health

Approved / Not Approved / Noted Further information required 49-Sch4 - Personal Information ..... Director-General Dated 25/1/13
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Endorsed:

24 January 2013

**Appointment of Acting Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health**

**Recommendation**

1. Approve the appointment of Paul Kevin Harrison as Acting Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health until such time as the Governor-in-Council appoints a person to that office.
2. Sign the attached instrument of appointment (**Attachment 1**).

**Timing**

3. Urgent. Appointment is necessary for the performance of certain Commissioner duties including the initiation of prosecutions under four separate Acts. Stewart Bell ceases to fill the position of Commissioner on Friday 25 January 2013.

**Background**

4. The statutory position of Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health was authorised by the Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Act 2009, which was assented to on 12 June 2009.
5. Despite the Public Service Act 2008, section 8, the Commissioner is a public service officer employed under the Public Service Act 2008, and not under mining safety and health legislation.
6. A person may hold the office of Commissioner as well as another position under the Public Service Act 2008. To be appointed as Commissioner, a person must have a science or engineering qualification relevant to the mining industry and professional experience in mine safety and health.
7. The functions of the Commissioner are:
  - to advise the Minister on mine health and safety matters generally.
  - to fulfil the roles of chairperson of both mining safety and health advisory councils.
  - to monitor and report to the Minister and to Parliament on the administration of provisions about safety and health under mining safety and health legislation.
  - to perform the functions given to the Commissioner under the provisions of mining safety and health legislation.

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8. In addition to these duties the Commissioner is authorised to initiate prosecutions under the following Acts:
- *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*
  - *Explosives Act 1999*
  - *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999*
  - *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.*
9. There is provision under Section 73BA of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* (**Attachment 2**) for the chief executive to appoint an Acting Commissioner. It is proposed that Paul Harrison be appointed as Acting Commissioner pending the appointment of a Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health by Governor-In-Council. Paul Harrison meets the qualification requirements of the Section 73B of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* in that he has a science qualification relevant to the mining industry and has professional experience in mine safety.
10. A short curriculum vitae for Paul Harrison is attached (**Attachment 3**).

**Attachments**

- Attachment 1: Instrument of appointment – Paul Harrison
- Attachment 2: Section 73BA of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*
- Attachment 3: Short CV Paul Harrison

Section 78B(2) RTI Act

**Stewart Bell**

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**Director-General – Natural Resources and Mines**

**Comments:**


**Appointment of Paul Kevin Harrison  
as Acting Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health**

Pursuant to s73BA of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*, I hereby appoint **Paul Kevin Harrison, Acting Deputy Director-General** to act in the office of Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health, that office being vacant, from 26 January 2013 until such time as the Governor-in-Council appoints a person to that office.

Signed at Brisbane this .... day of January 2013.

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Dan Hunt  
Director-General  
Department of Natural Resources and Mines

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**Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999**

**Part 5A Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health**

**73BA Acting commissioner**

(1) The chief executive may appoint a person who is eligible for appointment as commissioner to act in the office of commissioner during any period or all periods when—

(a) the office is vacant; or

(b) the person holding the office is absent from duty or is, for another reason, unable to perform the functions of the office.

(2) The appointment is for the term, and on the conditions, decided by the chief executive.

(3) The chief executive's power to appoint a person to act in the office of the commissioner does not limit the Governor in

Council's powers under the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, section 25(1)(b)(ii), (iv) or (v).

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## Curriculum Vitae

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**Mr Paul Harrison**  
**Executive Director**  
**Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station**  
**Department of Natural Resources and Mines**

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Mr Harrison holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Chemistry) and has 25 years' experience and expertise in various aspects of mine safety and health in the private and public sectors. This has included mine safety work in USA, China and India, particularly in the area of improving mine gas monitoring practices and risk management. He has performed his current role for the past seven years. In this role, Mr Harrison is responsible for the management and strategic direction of Simtars, one of the world's premier mine safety research and technical services organisations.

Mr Harrison has nearly 20 years' experience in the control of coal mine fires and explosions. He has been involved in the ongoing development and support of the mine gas monitoring technology to prevent mine fires and explosions. He was involved in the emergency response to the Moura No 2 and Pike River mine disasters as well as a number of mine fires. He was the project manager for a major Australian Coal Association Research Program funded project to prove modified jet engines as inert gas generators for coal mine fire control. The Queensland Government subsequently equipped the Queensland Mines Rescue Service with this capability which has been used at Blair Athol and Southland mines in Australia, Loveridge Mine in the United States and Pike River Mine in New Zealand. He was responsible for the design and development of new mobile mine gas laboratory for emergency response which was used extensively at Carborough Downs Mine for a number of months in 2012 to assist in the containment of a spontaneous combustion and in the recovery and reopening of the mine.

Mr Harrison is a member of the Queensland Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre Advisory Board and the Queensland Government representative on the Australian Government's Coal Mining Abatement Technical Support Package Technical Advisory Committee.