



**Construction, Forestry,  
Mining & Energy Union**  
Mining and Energy Division  
Queensland District Branch  
ABN 73 089 711 903

**Brisbane**

P.O. Box 508, Spring Hill Qld 4004  
Level 2, 61 Bowen Street, Spring Hill 4000

Confidential

15 November 2019

Reply to Mackay Office

## INDUSTRY SAFETY AND HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT UNION INSPECTOR INSPECTION REPORT

<b>NAME OF MINE:</b>	<b>Grasstree</b>
<b>SENIOR SITE EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>Damien Wynn</b>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Confidential
<b>INSPECTION DATE:</b>	<b>1/11/2019</b>
<b>INSPECTION CONDUCTED BY:</b>	<b>Stephen Woods</b>

**Under s68 of the Act this entry forms part of the mine record and must be displayed as required under s69 of the Act.**

**Note that the inspection conducted was a sample inspection only. It remains the primary responsibility of Management & Mineworkers to identify and correct defects not identified during the conduct of this inspection.**

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, Stephen Woods attended Grasstree Mine to carry out functions pursuant to section 118 of the CMSHA 1999 in relation to complaints from coal mine workers regarding activities under single entry provisions at the mine.

### **Opening Meeting**

On arriving at the mine we were met by the Underground Mine Manager and acting Site Senior Executive (SSE) Kelvin Schiefelbein. We were introduced to Anthony Johns (Development Supt.) and Jim Hoare (SSHR). An opening meeting was held and the following matters discussed:

**Blackwater**  
45 Arthur Street  
Blackwater Qld 4717  
**P** 07 4982 5131  
**F** 07 4982 6325

**Dysart**  
Shop 24B Garden Plaza  
Shannon Crescent  
Dysart Qld 4745  
**P** 07 4958 2318  
**F** 07 4950 0065

**Mackay**  
33 Milton Street  
Mackay Qld 4740  
**P** 07 4957 2644  
**F** 07 4951 3241

**Moranbah**  
Cnr Mills Avenue &  
Bacon Street  
Moranbah Qld 4744  
**P** 07 4941 7004  
**F** 07 4941 5269

**Rockhampton**  
Level 5/156 Bolsover Street  
Rockhampton Qld 4700  
**P** 07 4922 7100  
**F** 07 4922 7105

- An overview of the mine and 909MG single entry was provided. The single entry is approximately 6.5km in length from 909MG entry to shaft 7. Most activities, including future development mining, are conducted on the 910 faceroad located approximately 3.5km from the 909MG entrance. There is 28 x 20psi rated seals along the roadway which encloses the worked out panel 908. This section is currently purging from a single hatch located in tailgate seal. Final sealing to date has not been completed.
- A copy of documents requested in the previous MRE were provided on USB. We were given a brief overview of some of these documents including:
  - Escapeway plan;
  - MP.GTM.007 Single-Entry Drive Created by Longwall Retreat;
  - RA.GTM.1038 Development mining of the 910 faceroad in the single entry.
- We raised and discussed basis of complaints pertaining to single entry activities including:
  - Risk management processes for proposed development mining of the 910 faceroad and 910MG via the 909MG single entry;
  - Repeated loss of control of water resulting in ponding at 14ct and loss of egress; events of water levels reaching in excess of 1.8 meters at 14 cut through.
  - Repeated high gas concentrations including events above 2% methane being recorded by the shaft 7 sensor;
  - Recent event (30/10/2019) involving the loss of ventilation in the 909MG single entry that resulted in the withdrawal of coal mine workers from 909MG. Although it was recorded as an incident, it was not considered by the mine to be a HPI, as such, the mine did not follow notification provisions under s198(1) & (2)(b) of the CMSHA. We requested a copy of the results from the formal investigation (LFI) to be conducted on the 4th of November;
  - Report of a deputy (Explosive Risk Zone Controller) operating mobile plant in high methane with the methanometer bypassed during the withdrawal on 30/10/2019.
- Reporting of single entry incidents to crews. Reported via crew safety meetings at the start of shift on the MSO notes that was later confirmed;
- The provision of caches and COBs located in the 909MG single entry. Confirmed there is no refuge located in the 909MG single entry; Water and communications are available via borehole to the bleeder roadway inbye of the face line.
- Availability of equipment to assist in aided escape via shaft 7. The mine had checked to ensure that equipment was available to be transported to site in case of emergency. Some equipment, for example a man cage, would come from Blackwater. No timeframe for onsite deployment readiness could be provided;

- Risk vs benefit of development mining in the single entry. Response included negative float of 60 days to LW910 compared to alternative of 150 days negative float to LW809.
- Disagreement on the issue around the reporting of an unplanned event causing the withdrawal of a person from the mine or part of the mine. The office of ISHR believes that pursuant to section 5 of Schedule 1C that this fits the description of a High Potential Incident and as such the reporting requirements relevant to that section should be met.

### **Underground Inspection**

An inspection of the 909MG single entry was conducted with Jim Hoare (SSHR) and Dale Carter (ERZC) and the following was found:

- Electrical equipment inspected including fish tank at 7ct and transformers. Sensor locations confirmed with methane sensors located on the outbye side and between goaf seals and electrical equipment. Carbon monoxide sensors located on the inbye side;
- 11 Personal tags on the tag board at the entry to the section between 1 and 2 cut through.
- 52m<sup>3</sup>/s Ventilation recorded on the vent board on the 31/10/19.
- U-tubes installed in seals were approximately 1.5m high;
- Cogs installed in front of goaf seal sites were not touching the roof at 7ct and 9ct. This was found from a small sample of seals inspected in the panel;
- High tide mark on ribs indicated that water levels had previously reached approximately 1.6-1.8m height around 14ct;
- Tx's at 17ct and 24ct were not powered at the time of inspection. The Tx at 24ct had a reading of 0.93% CH<sub>4</sub> on the seal sensor at the time of inspection;
- Environmental sensors located outbye and inbye the 910 faceroad were off at the time of inspection. They were powered from 24ct Tx;
- Environmental readings were taken at the last open cut thru on the 910 faceroad. The methane level was 1 -1.2% taken by 2 x PGD's. Thermal conditions were 27/31 degrees Celsius wb/db; A large amount of water was located on the face road inbye of 1 C/T and air pumps were operating. SSHR Hoare rectified the air pump which was not pumping efficiently due to blocked strainer at the time of the inspection.

- Methane drainage standpipes located in the ribs of a designated shunt were not demarcated or protected from collision.

### **Closeout**

A closeout meeting was held and the findings discussed.

There is a formal inquiry MRE attached with this report.

After reviewing this report, you may formulate an action list and timeline for completion to rectify any issues identified. I would appreciate a copy of this action list as soon as practical or by C.O.B. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2019.

Regards

Confidential

**Industry Safety and Health Representative  
District Union Inspector  
C.F.M.E.U Mining and Energy Division  
Queensland District Branch**

Confidential