

*Oaths Act 1867***Statutory Declaration****QUEENSLAND****TO WIT**

I, Geoff Nugent, of [REDACTED] in the State of Queensland, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am an Inspector of Mines (“IOM”) within Coal Mining Inspectorate (“the Inspectorate”) within Resources Safety and Health Queensland (“RSHQ”), a position I have held since 1 July 2020. Prior to this I was employed in the same role by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy since September 2018.
2. I have 30 years of experience in the mining industry. Before joining the Department, I worked for four years at Collinsville Coal Company as a survey assistant and underground miner, 12 years in various roles with the North Goonyella Coal Mine, six years as an operations manager with the Queensland Mines Rescue Service, and six years as an underground shift superintendent with the BMA Broadmeadow Mine.
3. I am the holder of a Deputy Certificate of Competency and Advanced Diploma in Underground Coal Mine Management.
4. I provide the following evidence to assist the Inquiry.

Involvement with the Grosvenor coal mine investigation

5. I became aware of the incident at the Grosvenor coal mine on 6 May 2020 when I received a phone call from Regional Inspector of Mines (North) (“RIOM”) Stephen Smith. I was deployed to attend the mine the next day to assist with the underground re-entry process.
6. That re-entry process involved a review from a risk management perspective of the situation at the mine with a view to ensuring that any risk was at an acceptable level for people to go underground following the incident.

7. I recall seeing the clothing worn by the injured coal mine workers after the incident. The first time that I saw this clothing was on 7 May 2020. The clothing was in the possession of Nicolette Martens, who is an employee at the Grosvenor coal mine. I was told that the clothing and other equipment had been collected from the back of the drift runners which had transported the injured workers from the mine.
8. At about 11.15am I recall that I saw the clothing and other equipment in the health and safety coordinator's office. The clothing and other equipment were stored in plastic bags or archive boxes.
9. I watched as the items were removed from each container one by one, placed onto a table, photographed with a handwritten number next to it, before being returned to the container. My role during this process was to observe and to take photographs. I recall that an employee of the mine was also taking photographs on that day.
10. I saw additional items of clothing and equipment the next day on 8 May 2020. On this occasion the clothing and equipment was in the lunchroom, which was adjacent to the office where the clothing was located on 7 May 2020. The process was the same as what took place the previous day, with the clothing and equipment being removed from their respective containers one by one, before being placed onto a table to be photographed alongside a handwritten number, and then being returned to their containers.
11. Mr Murray Nystrom of Australian Forensic was there that day and I observed him taking a series of photographs of the clothing as it was laid out in the lunchroom. I also took a series of photographs of the clothing at that time.
12. I have had the opportunity to read the report prepared by Mr Nystrom during the course of the investigation. I confirm that the photographs of the clothing which he has included in his report were taken on 8 May 2020. I am certain about that because I recall the appearance of the handwritten notes positioned alongside the clothing, which differed from the handwritten notes used the previous day, and the features of the room which I recognise as being the lunchroom. I have compared the appearance of Mr Nystrom's photographs to the photographs that I took on 8 May 2020 and these features are consistent between them.
13. At all times when I had some dealings with the clothing which came from the injured coal mine workers, those items of clothing were in the possession of an employee of the

Grosvenor coal mine. I do not recall seeing any pairs of pants amongst these items. I understand that the clothing was later seized by Principal Investigation Officer John Tolhurst although I was not personally involved with this.

14. The first group of people to go underground at the Grosvenor coal mine following the incident did so on 10 May 2020. I accompanied that group and was tasked with escorting the employees of the Grosvenor coal mine as they worked underground. I recall that Mr Murray Nystrom of Australian Forensic, along with others, went underground on that day. It was part of my role to ensure that the scene was not unnecessarily interfered with and that evidence was preserved as best as possible.
15. On 11 May 2020, I recall that Graham Ray, who is a fire investigator, went underground along with others. Again, my role was to escort these people as they worked underground and to ensure the integrity of the scene was preserved as best as possible.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

[Redacted Signature]

Signature of declarant/deponent

Taken and declared before me at MACKAY this 27 day of March 2021.

[Redacted Signature]

A Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for
Declarations

