

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs. Finocchiaro to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

NT WorkSafe

1. What improvements in procedures in the construction industry can be broadly applied through the recent undertaking entered into ACSM Builders and NT WorkSafe last month?
 2. Recently NT WorkSafe laid charges over the death of a Darwin musician on Tiger Brennan Drive; the Department alleges that BMD Constructions, amongst other things, failed to comply with Australian Safety Standards when setting up crash barriers; while those charges are still pending, what actions are currently being taken to ensure that similar circumstances are not potentially putting the lives of Territorians in danger?
 3. How many incidents have been reported to WorkSafe in the past year dealing with the INPEX project? What were the nature of those incidents and what, if any, penalties or undertakings were issued?
 4. How often does NT WorkSafe perform workplace visits at INPEX?
 5. What will NT WorkSafe's role be in the development of the onshore gas industry in the Territory?
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Answers:

1. The Enforceable Undertaking entered into with ACSM Builders Pty Ltd included the following commitments that improve health and safety in the workplace and in the wider construction industry:
 - Organising accredited working at heights courses for subcontractors regularly used by ACSM Builders.
 - Presenting the 'lessons learnt' to apprentices in the NT construction industry, which will include details of the incident and highlight the importance of following safety procedures.
 - Sponsor or assist in promoting the importance of fall protection in the construction industry during a Safe Work Month.
 - Sponsor working at height and basic scaffolding training to apprentices/students through the CDU.

- Mentor and provide information to local people and subcontractors on working at height techniques and fall protection when working in remote communities.
2. NT WorkSafe is developing a campaign that will focus on traffic management on or near a public road. Consultation with industry stakeholders including traffic management providers, Government agencies and peak industry bodies has commenced.

The initial round of consultation has identified that safety on roadworks projects is a significant issue across the nation. Peak Australasian road transport organisation Austroads, has begun working towards a national harmonised approach to temporary traffic control at road worksites. The implementation of this training will support a consistently high standard of traffic management practices across Australia.

While the harmonised traffic management project progresses on the national stage, NT WorkSafe will continue to develop and implement its local campaign. The campaign will involve road worksite visits, inspections of traffic management setups and traffic control diagrams, viewing safe work method statements and ensuring workers have appropriate training and qualifications to work safely in traffic control.

3. In the period 1 July 2017 to 30 August 2018, NT WorkSafe was notified of 68 reportable incidents on the INPEX Ichthys LNG construction site, and NT WorkSafe Inspectors conducted 123 visits to the Bladin Point facility in relation to the notified incidents.

The vast majority of those incidents were relatively minor in nature. All notified incidents were investigated by NT WorkSafe Inspectors, who issued three Improvement Notices and three Prohibition Notices to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

In late 2017, NT WorkSafe was notified that a worker was fatally injured on the INPEX Ichthys LNG construction site. NT WorkSafe immediately commenced a comprehensive investigation into the incident. The investigation has not yet been finalised.

4. In general, two NT WorkSafe Inspectors visit the INPEX Ichthys LNG construction site on a weekly basis. The visitation schedule may change depending on the actual work being conducted and any incidents that may have occurred.
5. NT WorkSafe is responsible for ensuring that all industries in the Northern Territory, including the oil and gas industry, comply with relevant work health and safety, dangerous goods and electrical safety legislation.