NSW Resources
Resources Regulator

NSW GOVERNMENT

Resources Regulator update

Small Mines Roadshow

February/March/April 2026

resources.nsw.gov.au

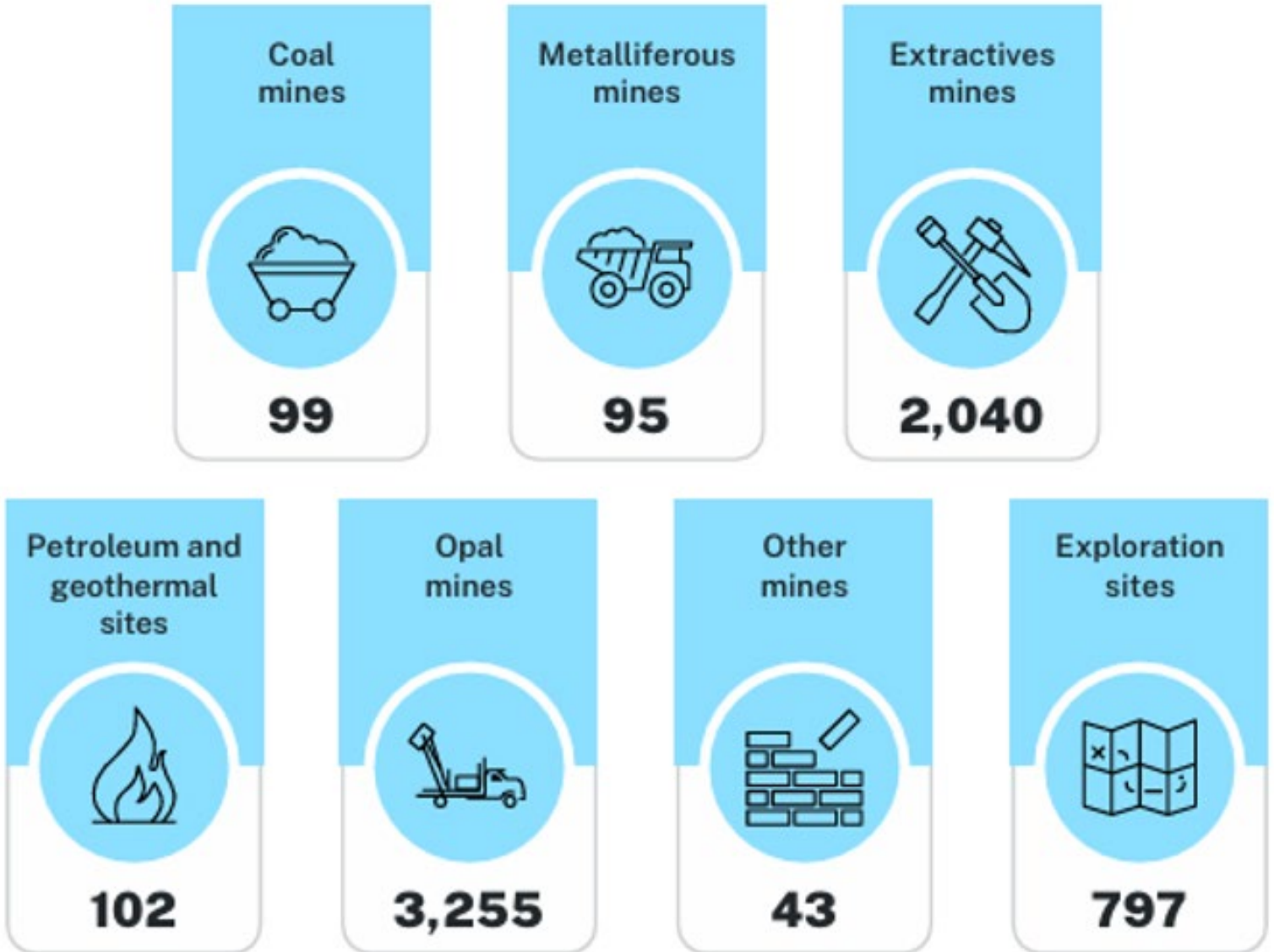
Topics covered

- The year in review
- Regulator’s vision and focus for the next 12 months
- Key takeaways

Year in review

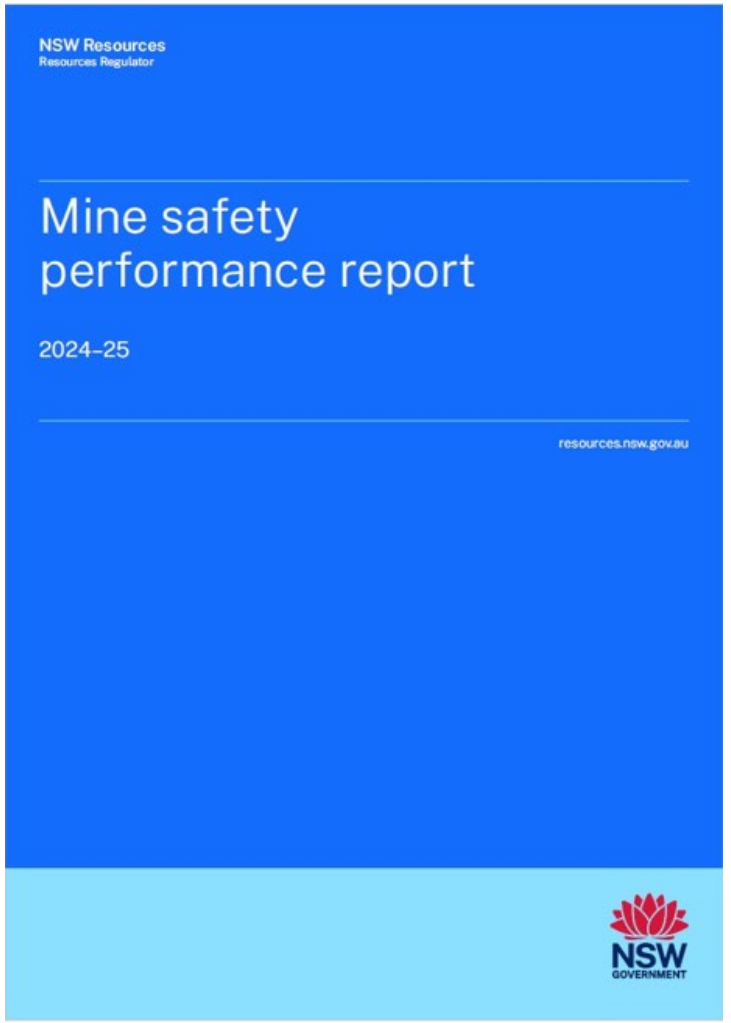
6,431 Active mines

The Resources Regulator regulates safety activities in the following industry sectors.



The Mine Safety Report should be out any day now.

Measure	2023-24	2024-25
Fatal injuries	0	0
Serious injuries	16	9
Incident notifications	158	161
Noticed issued	723	1609



In the extractives sector in 2024–25:

- There were 9 serious injuries recorded - a decrease from 16 in 2023–24.
- There were 19 lost time injuries reported - a decrease from 45 in 2023–24
- There were 84 total recordable injuries - a decrease from 128 in 2023–24

This is a great result but requires a sustained effort to drive it down further.

There could still have been **9 fatalities,** but for luck.

Last 18 months

11 serious injuries

6 other incidents of note

11 Serious injuries (past 18 months)

1. Fractured hip and shoulder exiting a 980 loader – July 24
2. Serious burns – refueling a pump - Oct 24
3. Operator changing a ripper boot on Komatsu 375 dozer - hit with hardened hammer, 7mm shard surgically removed. – Nov 24
4. Crush injury – run over by service truck - Dec 24
5. Entanglement serious injury - Dec 24
6. Fractured arm – caught under cover on jaw crusher - Jan 25
7. Fractured ribs – fell backwards off weighbridge – Feb 25
8. An electrical fire occurred in the operator's cabin of a loader. Worker overcome by fumes – March 25
9. Cut thumb – surgery to reattach tendons – June 25
10. Broken femur hit by concrete boom – Sept 25
11. Worker crushed under rock breaking hammer – Dec 25

Other incidents of Note (Last 18 months)

- Truck Roll Over
- Runaway truck
- Excavator rolled on its side and operator had to come out window
- Roller over the edge of tip and operator sustains fractured leg
- Grader hit by wheel loader
- Towing chain breaks, hitting worker


Galaxy A54 5G

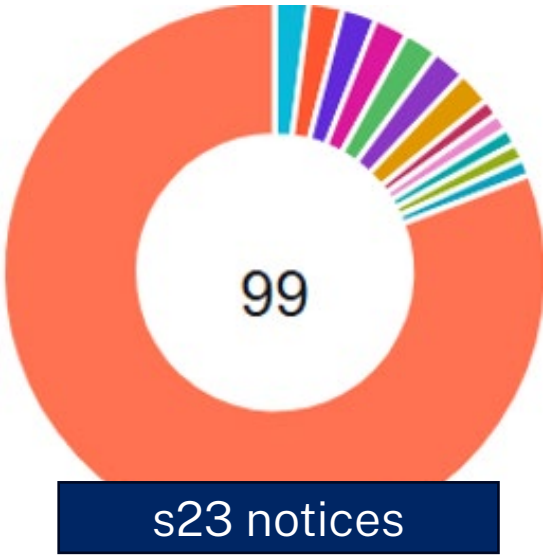

KOMATSU


HITACHI

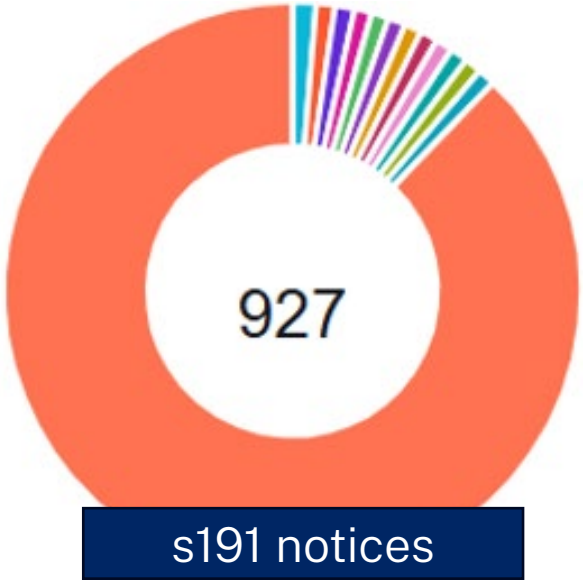

CAT
12M


CAT

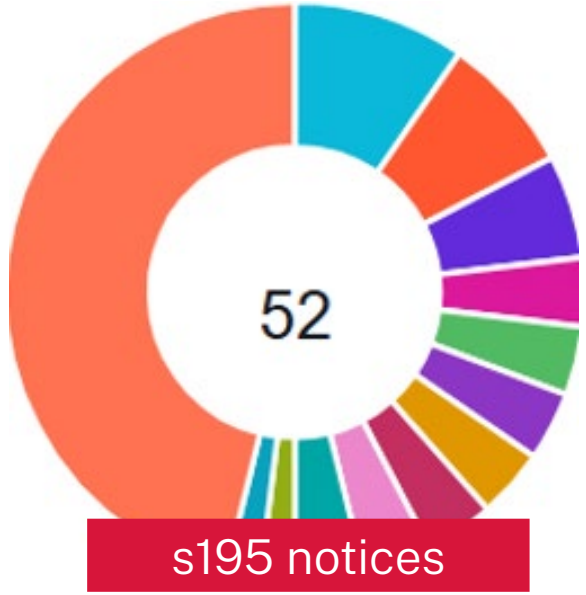
Significant program in the quarry sector in financialyear 2024
Tier 2 program



s23 notices



s191 notices



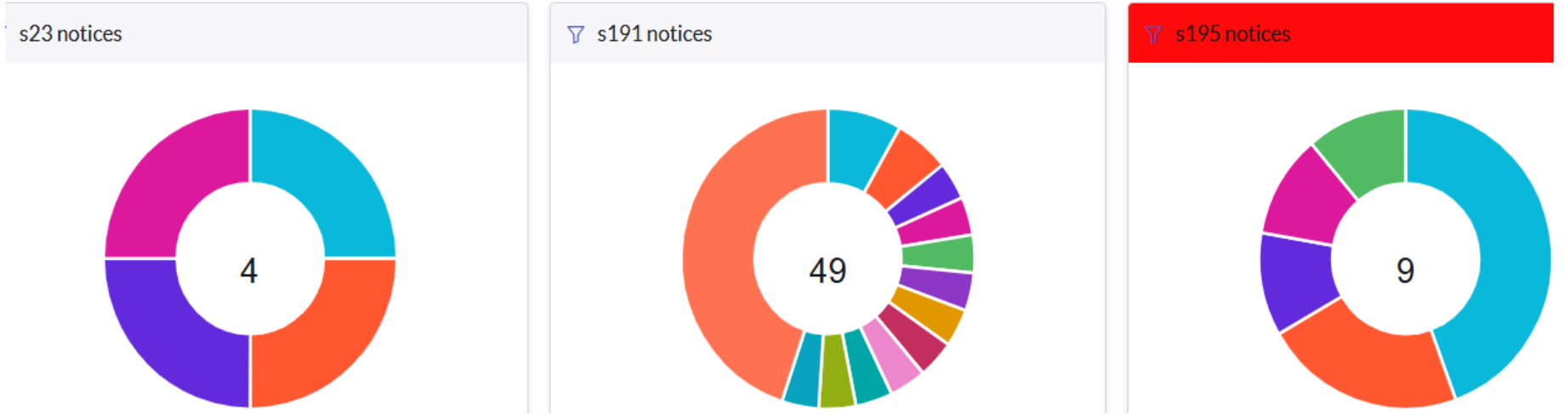
s195 notices

- 300 site assessments at tier 2 quarries
- 1078 notices issued – primarily around PHMPs and PCPs very admin focussed
- 52 prohibitions many in the 99 s23s would have been s195 but were fixed during the assessment

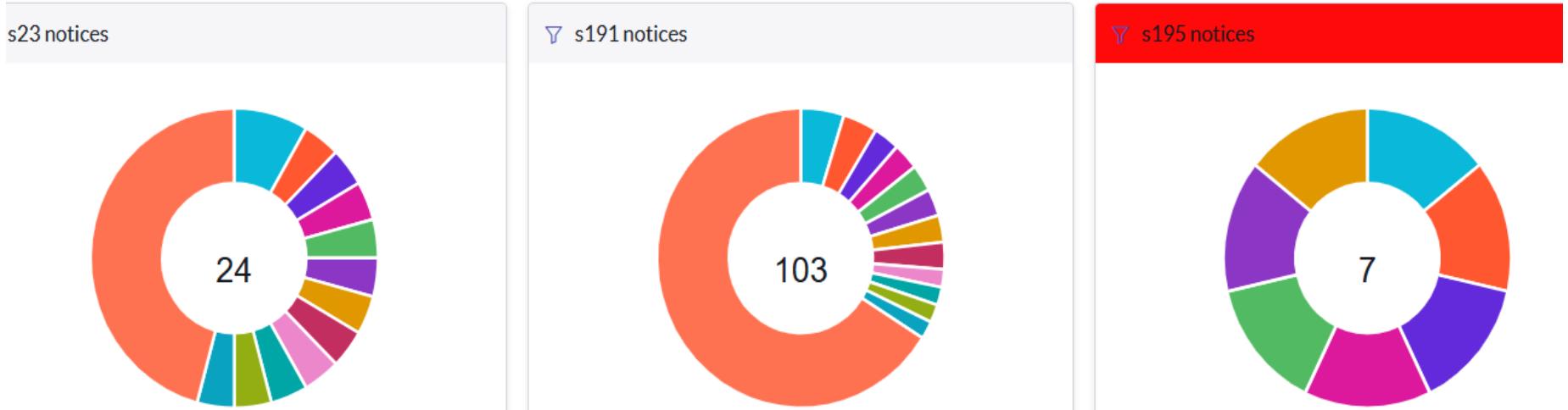
Current program plans FY25 - more field focussed

- 104 site assessments to date
- The plan is to complete 200 by the end of the program

Entanglement



Inspections



How does the sector improve?

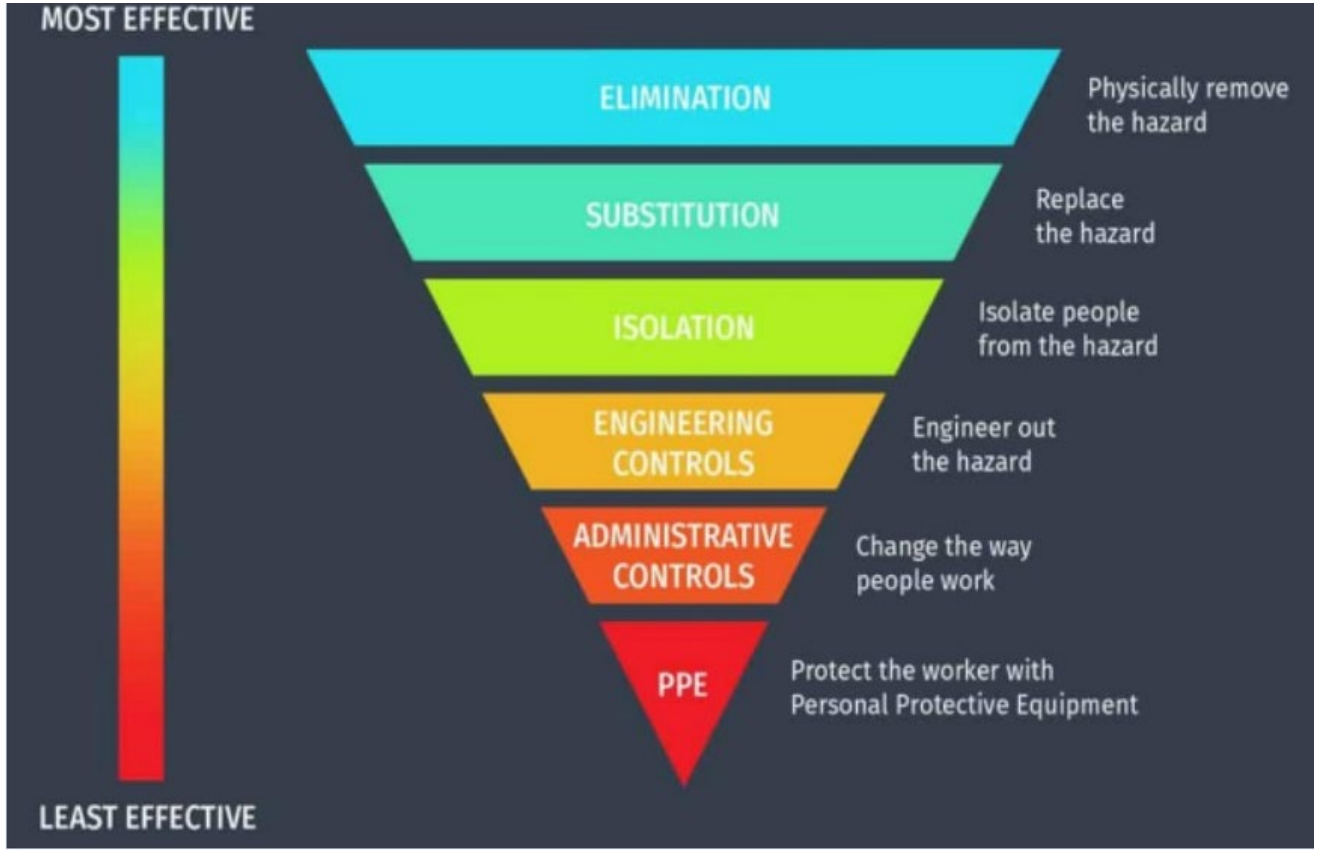
Hierarchy of control – hard controls

Human errors are overcome by having engineering controls or higher.

I think we all know this:

We need strong leadership to drive more engineering controls and higher.

We also need due diligence to ensure the controls stay in place and are maintained.



Vision as a Regulator

Our vision

Intelligence-driven and
outcomes-focused Regulator

Our vision

Intelligence-driven (what is guiding us?)

- We use **data, evidence, insights** and **the correct interpretation** to inform decisions.
- We have the right **measures** (KPIs) in place.
- Guide us on where to **focus our resources** and how effective we are.

Our vision

Outcomes-focused

- *Outputs* versus *outcomes*
- We are here to **change outcomes** and make a **tangible difference.**
- Everything we do has a **purpose** and an **outcome** that can be **measured.**
- We adapt and evolve our work based on **outcomes** achieved.

Regulator’s focus from July 2025 to June 2026

- Verification of controls for entanglement
- Inspection checklists and the intervals they are completed as per your PHMP and PCPs

Regulator’s focus from July 2025 to June 2026

Dust – respirable crystalline silica.

Mechanical engineering control plan - Energy and isolation, falling objects, working at heights.

Structural integrity

Regulator’s focus from July 2025 to June 2026

There will be increased frequency at the higher risk sites.

There will be an increase in unannounced site assessments.

Call to Action

What are signs of poor leadership and poor due diligence?

- Poor housekeeping (spillage, rubbish, etc).
- Shortcuts are taken.
- Management is not kept informed.
- Equipment down time is higher.
- Productivity is lower.
- Near misses occur regularly and are not reported.

Leadership

What does a good QM look like?:

- Capable and available
- Well organised and structured
- Not scared to make tough calls (stop production)
- Involve workers in decisions
- Drives standards of work that are agreed to (what you walk past you accept)
- Ensure that the SMS is implemented at all times (not just when it suits or the Regulator is coming)
- Push/informs up so that the mine operator is aware of what is required.

Due diligence

What does good due diligence look like?

- Introduction-to-site is done on all equipment.
- Workers' training is completed as per the SMS.
- Critical task are tracked and confirmed done (Dust sampling, electrical checks, fire extinguishers, lanyard and estops etc).
- When new process are being introduced to site, risk assessments are completed and the SMS is updated.
- QMs keep up-to-date with incident trends – weekly safety news, safety alerts and bulletins.
- QMs keep up-to-date with their own training – Resource Regulator, IQA, Australian Standards etc.

Call to action

Outcomes focused

- How often do you go out and watch how work is done?
- When was the last time you asked workers where they think they might get hurt?
- Do you have a structured way of verifying that controls you have put in place are still effective?
- When was the last time you moved a control onsite from PPE/Admin to an engineering control?

The challenge

Outcomes focused

When you go back to your quarry, your consultant's office or the OEM yard-

- ask yourself how can you contribute to making the quarry sector safer?
- Once you have the answer, take action and make it happen.

Outcomes focused

Safety doesn’t just happen — strong leaders make it happen.

Thank you and any questions