QUARTERLY REPORT

Extractives industry

2019/20 Q4

April to June

New Zealand Government

WORKSAFE
Mahi Haumaru Aotearoa

Foreword

Our mission is to transform New Zealand's health and safety performance towards world-class. To achieve this requires the commitment not just of WorkSafe, but of businesses, workers and a wide range of other players in the health and safety system.

We have now completed the first one year cycle with the publication of this Q4 industry report. It is our intention to improve the report with more in depth analysis of the High Potential Incidents (HPIs). We can then provide better advice to industry on the prevention of these incidents.

What have we learned this year?

We had one fatality – and although we have had a period of time from the last death the ten year average for Extractives is steady at one per year (work place death rates are calculated by fatalities per 100,000 FTE equivalents which would give extractives a fatality rate of 16.4 for this year).

Any fatality is unacceptable, and therefore any rate is unacceptable, and industry should note that the NZ all workplace fatality rate average has moved between 3.0 and 2.0 during the last 5 years. Any industry that has six times the national average of deaths should be concerned.

We also received 20 other notifiable injuries, and of further concern we had 96 HPIs. All of those 96 have been listed in the quarterly reports and I would think most readers would agree many of them were very close to a fatality, with only luck being the final barrier.

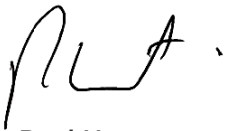
We have also learnt from the consistent data that there are certain types of HPIs that are reoccurring across both Mining and Quarrying operations. That mobile plant and roads and other vehicle operating areas are often involved, there are too many fall from heights, that many mechanical or electrical activities have resulted in harm or near misses and we have too many fires in underground locations.

In the next year this publication will begin to add more focus on the common causal factors of HPIs. We will hold PCBUs accountable for better quality investigations and will be checking that there is more implementation of higher hierarchy controls. A simple check would be, if you investigate and determine a new control is needed, answer this question: Could the actual or potential harm occur again? If the likelihood has not significantly changed you have not adequately addressed the causal factors.

Where we see good examples of improvement we will share the investigation outcomes with industry through general advice and commentary.

My final comments on this last year are that Q4 was a quite unusual period, with the influence of COVID-19 restrictions on normal business.

What was heartening was the ability of the extractives industry operators who worked through the period to risk assess the situation and then develop good COVID-19 management plans. The type of intense focus that was applied to ensure business continuity, is what is required by operators to reduce the number of high potential incidents.



Paul Hunt
Chief Inspector Extractives

About this report

This quarterly health and safety performance report has been prepared by WorkSafe NZ to provide extractives-specific information to mining, tunnelling and quarrying operations in New Zealand.

The information is derived from a variety of sources but the predominant source is industry itself, through notifiable incident reporting and mining and tunnelling sector quarterly reporting.

The report also contains information on the activities of the regulator, as well as commentary on industry performance and focus areas for regulation.

Operators should use the information presented in this report to assist them in improving safety management systems and undertaking risk assessments at their sites.

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1.0
Industry profile

IN THIS SECTION:

1.1 Operations

2

Metalliferous opencast mines
Includes one mine under care and maintenance

22

Coal opencast mines
Includes three mines under care and maintenance, and one undertaking rehabilitation

6

Metalliferous underground mines
Includes one mine under care and maintenance and two operating tourist mines

2

Coal underground mines
Includes one tourist mine under care and maintenance

5

Tunnels
Does not include tunnels that notified commencement but did not begin operating in the quarter

0

Coal exploration
No notifications of drilling commencement in the quarter

71

Alluvial mines
Number of mines that have been verified (65) or have notified of an Appointed Manager to WorkSafe (6) (includes 2 iron sands mines)

1,138

Quarries
Number of quarries that have been verified (909) or have notified of an Appointed Manager to WorkSafe (229)

An important aspect of understanding the health and safety performance of the extractives industry is to understand its makeup in terms of the number and scale of operations and the number and competency of workers involved.

There were 1,247 active operations in New Zealand as at the end of June 2020.

Active mining operations include those that are operating, intermittently operating, under care and maintenance, or undertaking rehabilitation, as well as tourist mines. Active quarries and alluvial mine numbers include operations that have been verified as actively or intermittently operating (that is, visited by WorkSafe), or have notified WorkSafe of an Appointed Manager.

The numbers of operations will vary from quarter to quarter. In these first quarterly reports, many of the changes are due to verification of sites by our inspectors, rather than actual changes to operations.

1.2 People

447

Metalliferous opencast mines
380 FTEs employed by mine operators and 67 FTEs employed by contractors

770

Coal opencast mines
653 FTEs employed by mine operators and 117 FTEs employed by contractors

433

Metalliferous underground mines
356 FTEs employed by mine operators and 77 FTEs employed by contractors

18

Coal underground mines
15 FTEs employed by mine operators and 3 FTEs employed by contractors

175

Tunnels
91 FTEs employed by mine operators and 86 FTEs employed by contractors

0

Coal exploration
No coal exploration in the quarter

278

Alluvial mines
Number of workers is known for 30 of the 71 alluvial mines that are verified and/or have notified of an Appointed Manager. The total number of workers has been extrapolated for the remaining 41 operations

3,322

Has been extrapolated for the remaining operations

Quarries
Number of workers is known for 674 of the 1,138 quarries that are verified and/or have notified of an Appointed Manager. The total number of workers has been extrapolated for the remaining 464 operations

The numbers of workers will also vary from quarter to quarter. Changes in the number of quarry and alluvial mine workers largely reflect the changes in the number of active operations verified by inspectors. Part of those verifications includes determining the number of workers at each operation.

A notable change is anticipated in the number of tunnel workers with two large tunnel operations in Auckland going operational between January and June 2020. Thousands of different types of workers will be exposed to these operations over the duration of the projects. The number of tunnel workers reported this quarter increased by 79 from last quarter.

Figure 1 shows the total hours worked by the mining and tunnelling sectors in Q4 2019/20. The hours are separated into Employees and Contractors.

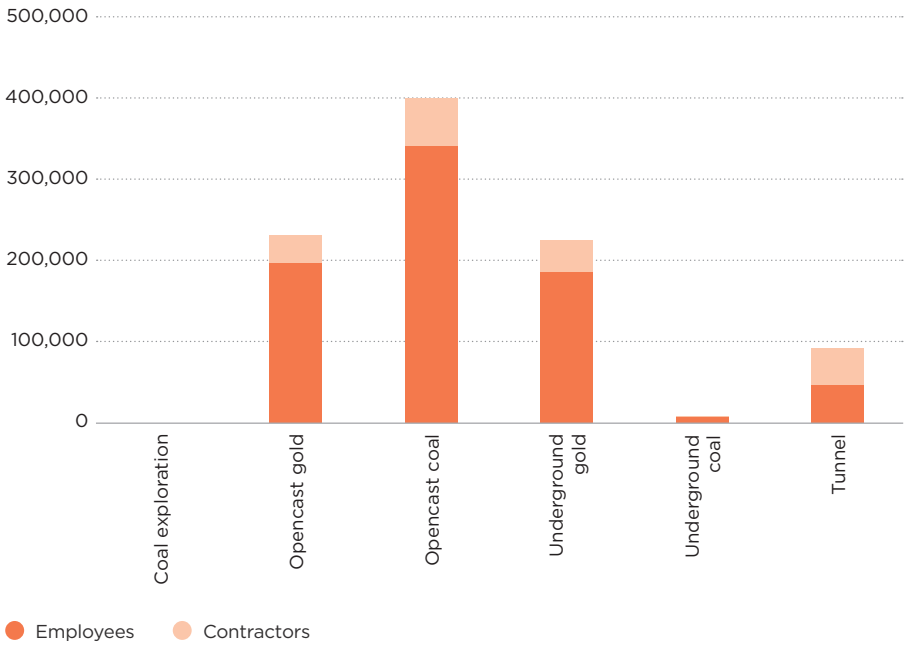

FIGURE 1:
Total hours worked by sector 2019/20 Q4

Figure 2 shows the number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) calculated from total hours worked for the mining and tunnelling sectors in Q4 2019/20. The hours are separated into Employees and Contractors.

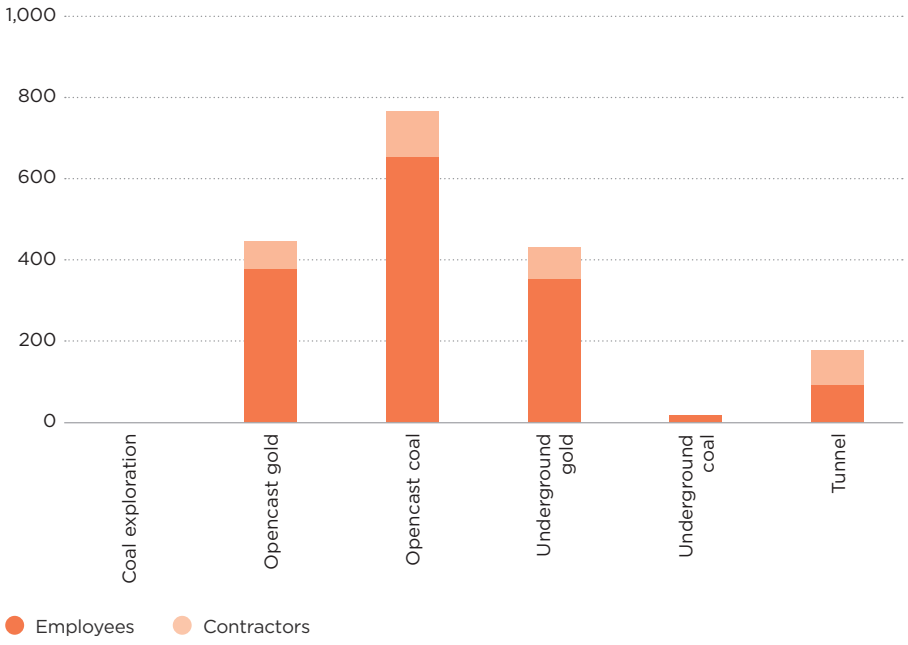

FIGURE 2:
Number of FTEs by sector 2019/20 Q4

1.3 Developing competence

WorkSafe has responsibility for setting the competency standards in the Extractives Industry. Improving the competence of the people in the industry is one of the most important aspects of improving health and safety performance. WorkSafe appoints the New Zealand Mining Board of Examiners (BoE) to recommend competency requirements, conduct oral examinations and to issue, renew, cancel or suspend Certificates of Competence (CoCs).

Table 1 provides a summary of the total number of CoCs issued by COC type since 2015, and the number of new COCs issued in Q4 2019/20. (During the COVID-19 restrictions only one video oral exam was conducted. This proved successful.)

COC TYPE	TOTAL NUMBER OF COCs ISSUED 2015 to June 2020	NUMBER OF COCs ISSUED Q4 April to June 2020
A Grade Quarry Manager	314	
B Grade Quarry Manager	466	
A Grade Opencast Coal Mine Manager	69	
B Grade Opencast Coal Mine Manager	62	
A Grade Tunnel Manager	31	
B Grade Tunnel Manager	68	
Site Senior Executive	62	1
First Class Coal Mine Manager	19	
First Class Mine Manager	20	
Coal Mine Deputy	40	
Coal Mine Underviewer	32	
Mechanical Superintendent	24	
Electrical Superintendent	17	
Ventilation Officer	3	
Mine Surveyor	10	
Site Specific	1	
Winding Engine Driver	3	
Total	1,241	1

TABLE 1: Certificates of Competence issued

Health and safety performance

IN THIS SECTION:

2.1 Notifiable events

Notifiable events are required to be reported to WorkSafe under S23(1), S24(1) and S25(1) of the Act, and for mining and tunnelling operations, under Schedule 5 of the Regulations. Notifiable events include any notifiable incidents, notifiable injuries or illnesses, or fatalities.

The tables below show the number of notifiable events and the number of operations that notified events from July 2018 to June 2020 for mine and tunnels (Table 2) and quarries and alluvial mines (Table 3).

MINES AND TUNNELS	2018/19 Q1	2018/19 Q2	2018/19 Q3	2018/19 Q4	2019/20 Q1	2019/20 Q2	2019/20 Q3	2019/20 Q4
Number of notifiable events	18	16	26	13	20	20	24	16
Number of operations that notified events	10	9	10	7	10	13	10	9

TABLE 2: Mines and tunnels – notifiable events and operations that notified events

Twenty individual mines and tunnels from a total of 38 reported notifiable events in the past 12 months.

QUARRIES AND ALLUVIAL MINES	2018/19 Q1	2018/19 Q2	2018/19 Q3	2018/19 Q4	2019/20 Q1	2019/20 Q2	2019/20 Q3	2019/20 Q4
Number of notifiable events	13	11	23	9	22	16	22	13
Number of operations that notified events	12	10	21	9	20	16	14	8

TABLE 3: Quarries and alluvial mines – notifiable events and operations that notified events

Forty-six individual quarries and alluvial mines from a total of 1,209 reported notifiable events in the past 12 months.

Figure 3 shows the number of notifiable events reported to WorkSafe by sector from July 2018 to June 2020.

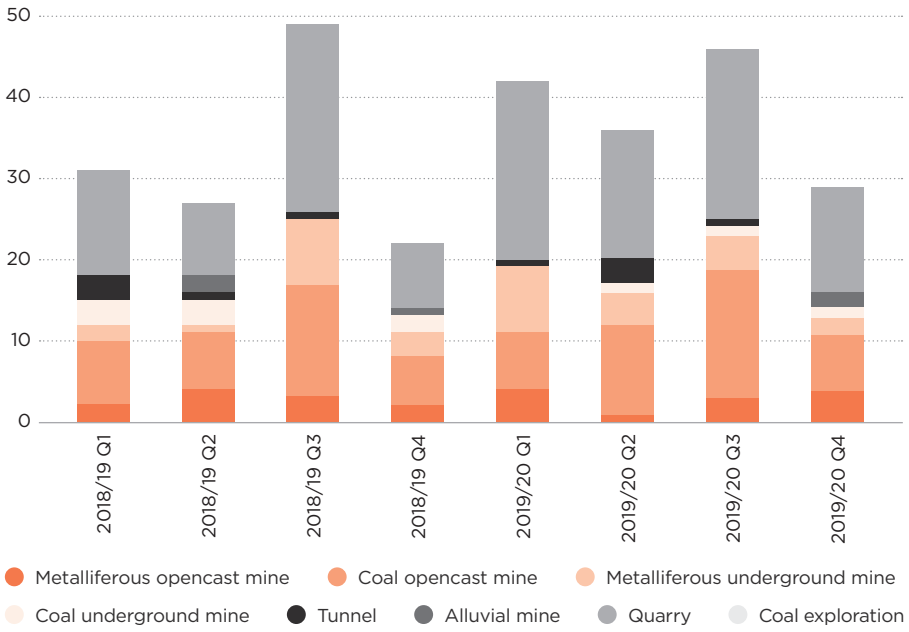

FIGURE 3: Notifiable events by sector

2.2 Injuries

Additional information about injuries is reported to WorkSafe for mining and tunnelling operations in the form of Quarterly Reports and Records of Notifiable Events under Schedules 6 and 8 of the Regulations. Figure 4 shows the number of injuries by injury type reported to WorkSafe by the mining and tunnelling sectors from July 2017 to June 2020. The graph also shows the rolling 12-month average for the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR), the rate of recordable injuries that occurred per million hours worked.
The current TRIFR is 5.2 which tells us that the frequency of injuries requiring medical treatment is steady but still high compared to other similar jurisdictions.

While TRIFR is not the only measure indicating the health of the industry, it is a useful indicator of how workers are being injured and should be interpreted in conjunction with other data such as notifiable event information.

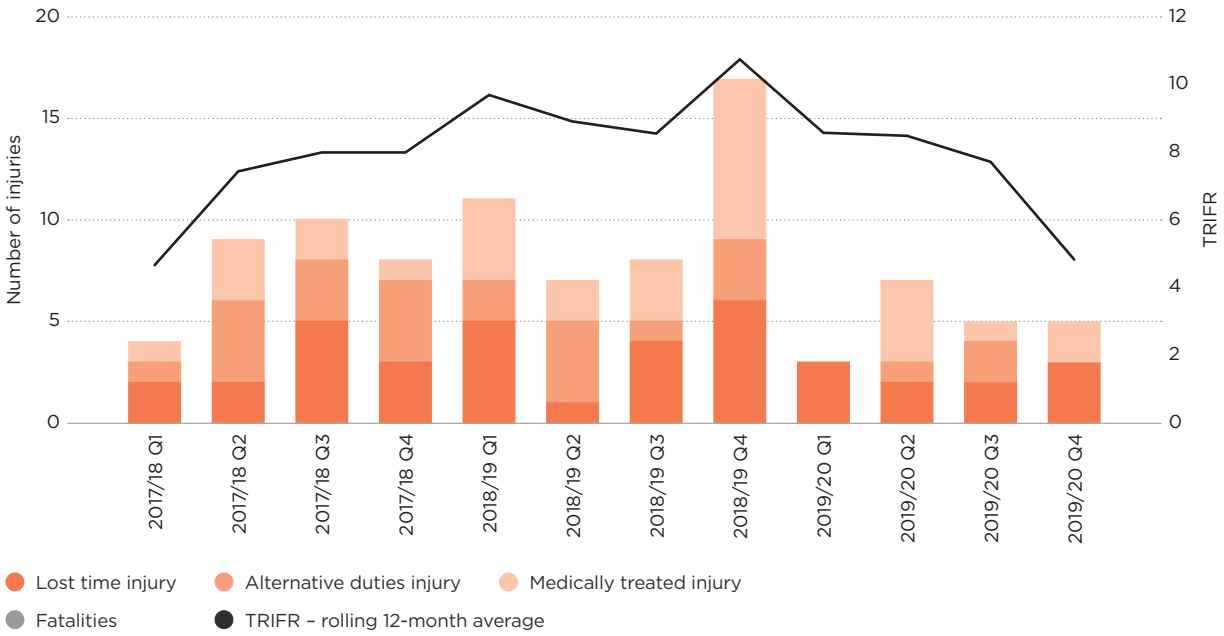

FIGURE 4: TRIFR – mines and tunnels

The following injury definitions are taken from Schedule 8 of the Regulations:

- **Lost-time injuries** are events that involved injury or illness of a mine worker that resulted in the inability of the worker to work for 1 day or more (not including the day of the event) during the reporting period (whether the worker is rostered on that day or not).
- **Alternative duties injuries** are events that involved injury or illness of a mine worker that resulted in the worker being on alternative duties during the reporting period.
- **Medical treatment injuries** are work-related injuries to mine workers that required medical treatment during the reporting period but did not require a day lost from work or alternative duties (other than the day of the event).

Figures 5 and 6 show the number of injuries resulting in more than a week away from work (WAFW), and the sum of the claims costs for those WAFW injuries for the mining and quarrying sectors from July 2017 to December 2019. It is important to note that the number of WAFW injuries for previous quarters may increase over time as ACC can grant claims up to 12 months after an injury has occurred. The claims costs for WAFW injuries for previous quarters will also

continue to increase over time as the true costs of those injuries are realised. It may take two years or more for the true costs to be realised. The average cost of extractives sector WAFW injuries between July 2017 and December 2019 was over $21,000 per injury.

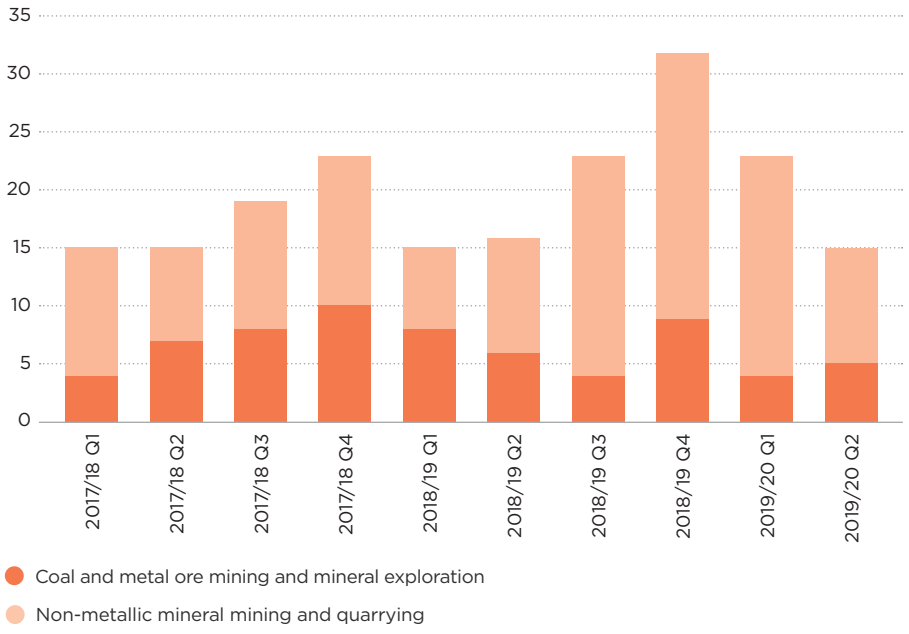

FIGURE 5:
Number of injuries resulting in more than a week away from work

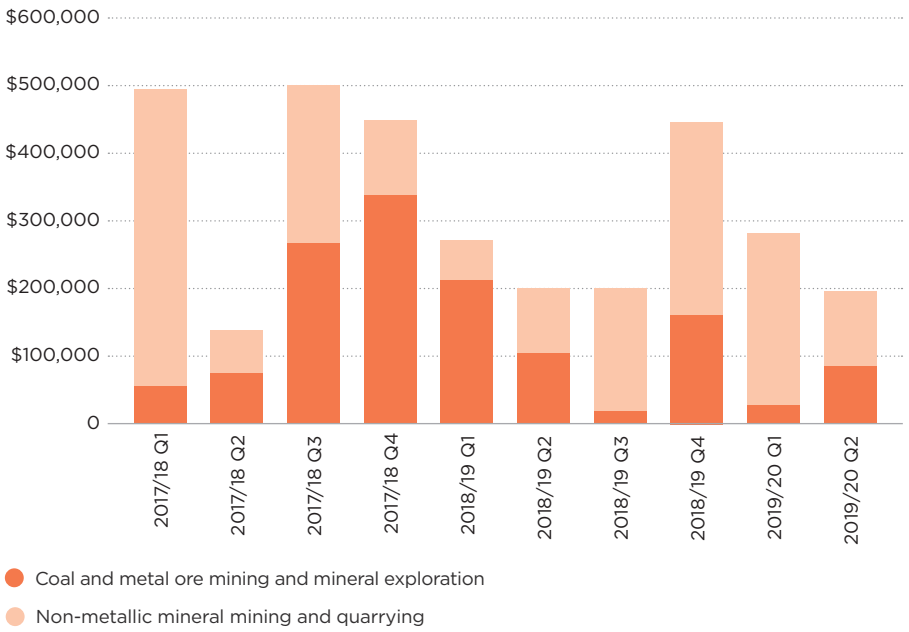

FIGURE 6:
Sum of claims cost (excluding GST) for injuries resulting in more than a week away from work

The data for these graphs comes from our System for Work-related Injury Forecasting and Targeting (SWIFT) database. It includes ACC data on approved work-related injury claims that resulted in more than a week away from work (WAFW). There is a seven month lag applied to the data to allow time for the claim information to stabilise, so data for the past two quarters is not yet available. While SWIFT data draws on ACC data, differences in counting criteria mean it may not match ACC counts, and should not be considered official ACC data.

2.3 Types of events

Figures 7 and 8 show the notifiable event categories for events notified to WorkSafe in the previous 12 months, by the mining and tunnelling sectors and the quarrying and alluvial mining sectors, respectively. The data shows that 59 percent of notifiable events in the mining and tunnelling sectors in the past 12 months have occurred in relation to vehicles and plant (35%), and fire, ignition, explosion or smoke (24%). These two categories are broken down in more detail in the following section. Sixty-five percent of notifiable events in the quarrying and alluvial mining sectors in the past 12 months involved the collapse, overturning, failure or malfunction of, or damage to plant (43%) and an implosion, explosion or fire (24%).

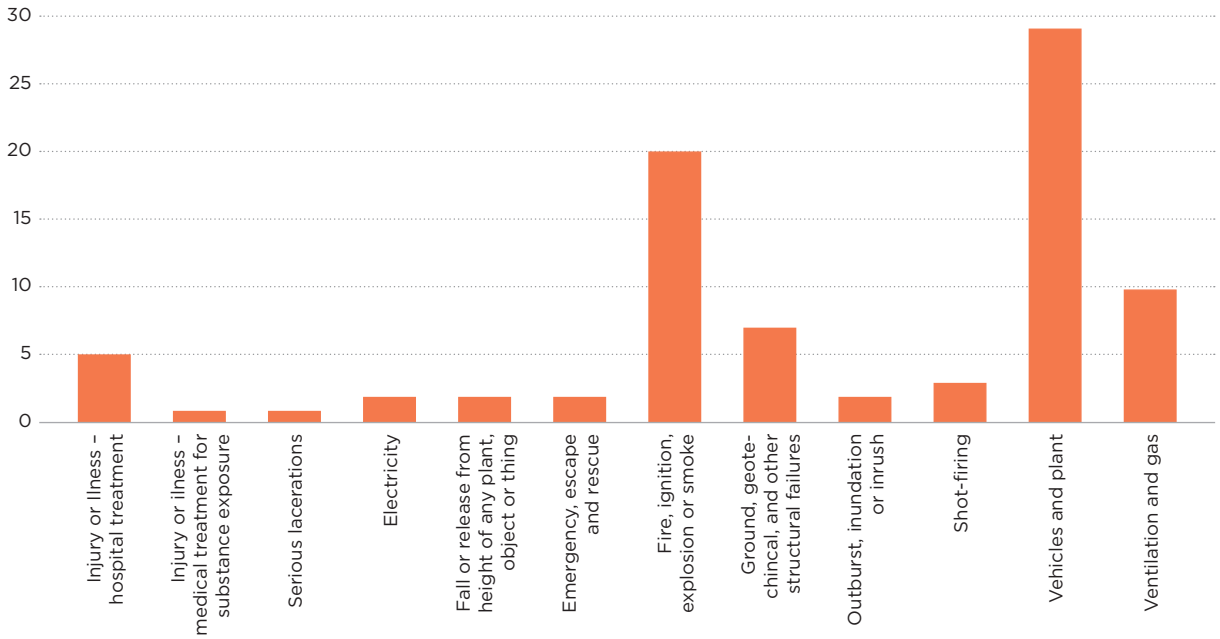

FIGURE 7: Mines and tunnels notifiable event categories for the previous 12 months

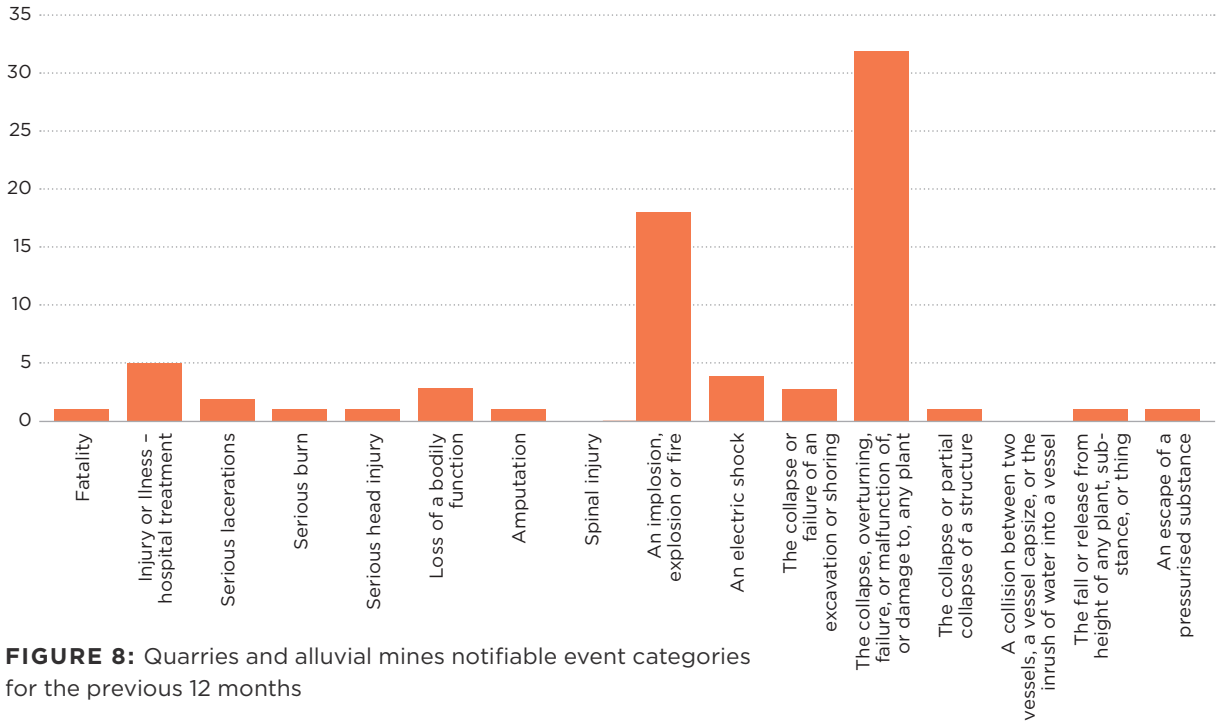

FIGURE 8: Quarries and alluvial mines notifiable event categories for the previous 12 months

2.4 Mine and tunnel focus areas

Where there is a high frequency of notifiable events in any Schedule 5 category, we have broken these events down in more detail to identify key focus areas. We will target our inspections to ensure that operators have adequate controls in place to address these risks.

Figures 9 and 10 break down the two largest notifiable event categories for mines and tunnels in the past 12 months into the corresponding Schedule 5 sub-categories. The data shows that for notifiable events related to fire, ignition, explosion or smoke, 76% involve fires on plant, mobile plant or in buildings associated with mining or tunnelling activities, 18% involves spontaneous combustion and 6% involves the outbreak of any fire on the surface or in the underground parts of the mining operation that endangers mine workers. The vehicle and plant-related notifiable events involve collision of mobile plant with other plant (34%), overturning of mobile plant (28%), unintended movement or brake failure (21%), breach of a safety berm or windrow (14%) and tyre bursts (3%).

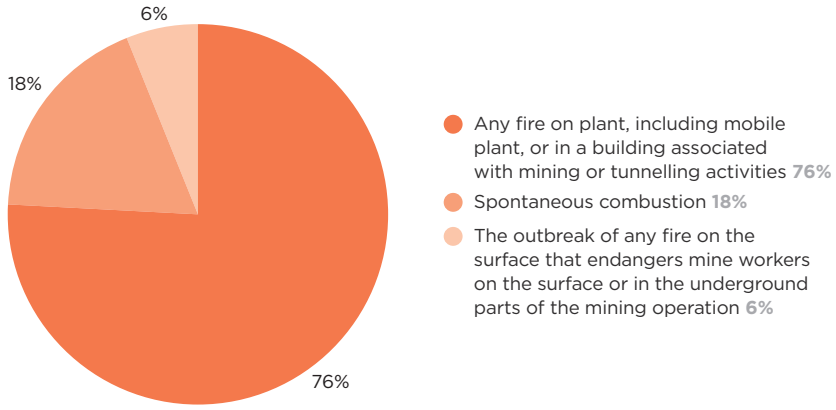

FIGURE 9: Fire, ignition, explosion or smoke-related notifiable event sub-categories

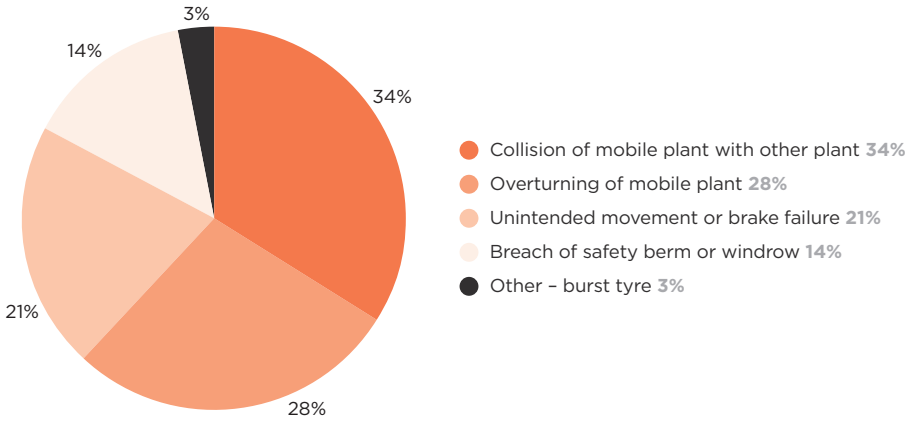

FIGURE 10: Vehicles and plant-related notifiable event sub-categories

Consistency of reporting

Mining and tunneling data are received from a high proportion of those operations and are considered to be accurate. Notifiable events were reported by 53% of operations in the past 12 months, and quarterly reports were submitted by 100% of operations this quarter.

Quarrying and alluvial mining data are received from a much lower proportion of those operations and are likely to be less accurate. Notifiable events were reported by just 4% of operations in the past 12 months. The SWIFT data on WAFW injuries consistently shows higher numbers of injuries in the quarry sector, suggesting under-reporting of events. More accurate reporting from the quarry sector is expected when the requirements for reporting under Schedules 5 and 8 are implemented for quarries.

2.5 Regulator comments

After one full cycle of quarterly data we can be confident on where there is a high frequency of HPIs occurring and therefore where we should concentrate our efforts in the short to medium term. Mines and tunnels have a high frequency of notifiable events in the 'vehicles and plant' category and quarries and alluvial mines have a high frequency of notifiable events in 'the collapse, overturning failure or malfunction of plant'. In the main both sets of reportable events pertain to collision, loss of control, overturning or unintended movement of mobile plant. There have also been a good percentage of general workplace type incidents over the year, such as falls from height and workshop incidents that could have resulted in serious injuries or fatalities.

The regulator or operators will not be surprised with what the data is saying, as the industry uses a lot of mobile plant. But high usage should not be an excuse that the current performance should be accepted as normal.

Nor should human error be an excuse. There is little doubt that human error often plays a part in safety incidents, however it would be rare when human error is the only causative factor in a notifiable injury or fatality incident. There will almost certainly be other failed or missing barriers. I have often talked about the predictability of human error and that operators need to take this into account when designing safe work systems. Some of the HPIs that have been listed this past year had good examples of consequence mitigation after errors had occurred. A recent example was a runaway truck that hit a well-designed windrow. The windrow was larger than current guidance requires due to the location on the outside edge at the bottom of a steep grade, above a pond (Identified in RA). The windrow absorbed the impact, prevented the truck leaving the road and restricted injuries to a few bruises. Yes it was a reportable event, and yes it could have been avoided, and yes there were several human errors involved, but because the system of work anticipated the possibility of a mistake the consequences were reduced.

The operator has an obligation to investigate these HPIs and to then take measures to prevent any reoccurrence. As discussed in the last quarterly report the regulator has been disappointed with the quality of investigations and with the choice of lower order hierarchy of control measures adopted after many incidents, so it is not surprising that there is no significant reduction in the frequency of incidents.

There is an expectation in future that investigation reports are comprehensive and result in effective controls being implemented to prevent or reduce the harm to workers.

In future HPIs will all be followed up, and it is likely WorkSafe will often require additional information from operators about the circumstances and activities that contributed to HPIs. As well as this resulting in improvements on the site,

it will further develop our database and better identify the common contributors to incidents and best controls to prevent them. This will allow us to better educate industry.

The sharing of these learnings will be the most important objective of the quarterly report.

2.6 High potential incidents

A high potential incident at a mine, quarry or tunnel is an event, or a series of events, that causes or has the potential to cause a significant adverse effect on the safety or health of a person.

Table 4 provides a summary of high potential incidents notified to WorkSafe in Q4 2019/20. The summaries are an abridged version from the operator's notification report.

HIGH POTENTIAL INCIDENTS – 2019/20 Q4

Incident date	Summary	Considerations
Apr 20	Truck was being loaded, weight on the tailgate lifted the truck and caused it to overturn.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Training
Apr 20	Digger rolled over bank while recovering metal for farm driveway. Bank where digger was operating had failed. Police and ambulance attended and operator was taken to hospital for checkup. No significant injuries. **Note**: Private farm operation.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Ground and Strata – Risk assessment – Training
May 20	Truck driver drove over causing collapse of road surface into void. Truck managed to drive out. The void had been created as a result of historic underground mine workings.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Ground and Strata – Risk assessment
May 20	Fork lift operator suffered crush and laceration injuries as a result of getting fingers jammed between fork tine and attachment frame while adjusting forks. First aid was administered immediately onsite then he was transferred into Accident and Emergency. Underwent surgery on day to stitch and pin the finger.	– Job Planning – Equipment maintenance – Training
May 20	A loaded 777 haul truck hit a windrow while over taking a grader on haulage road. The operator was attended to by emergency services with a broken finger and lacerations.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Training
May 20	While dumping load clay material stuck to tipper body of the truck when raised causing the tipper body to turn and then the vehicle to roll. No injuries.	– Job Planning – Risk assessment – Training
May 20	An engineer was using a hydraulic press to flatten cupped washers. His right index finger was caught under and crushed by the ram resulting in the loss of his finger tip.	– Job Planning – Risk assessment – Training
May 20	A booster and non-electric detonator were discovered while excavating a blasted muckpile.	– Explosives
May 20	Whilst reversing an ADT to tip off a load, the operator experienced sunstrike in his mirror, reversed onto a previously tipped load and the tray of the ADT turned over.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Risk Assessment – Training
May 20	An articulated dump truck (25 tonne) was tipping a load of gravel at the stockpile and while tipping the tray has tipped over. Investigation showed tyre marks up stockpile which would have caused tray to be uneven at the time of tipping.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Training

HIGH POTENTIAL INCIDENTS – 2019/20 Q4		
Incident date	**Summary**	**Considerations**
Jun 20	A Caterpillar 789C haul truck while reversing to dump a load made contact with a Caterpillar 988 loader which was tending the tiphead. No injuries to people, minor damage to loader bucket and haul truck tray.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Training
Jun 20	Operator of 777 dump truck drove under load out conveyor with deck raised. Deck struck conveyor and conveyor structure was pushed over.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Risk Assessment – Training
Jun 20	During a heavy rainfall period part of the pit wall has become saturated and failed, and fill material has slipped downhill onto travelling roads.	– Ground and Strata – Risk assessment
Jun 20	A Dump Truck has rear ended a front end loader which was stopped at a giveway sign. No injury, Minor damage.	– Roads and operating surfaces – Traffic management plan – Training
Jun 20	An operator inadvertently pushed the incorrect button to release material from an overhead bin onto cab of vehicle. He subsequently pushed emergency stop but this action caused the chute to fully open, not stop the flow as he intended.	– Emergency Systems/Design – Training – Maintenance – Risk assessment

TABLE 4: High potential incidents – 2019/20 Q4

Table 5 and Figure 11 shows the number of high potential incidents per quarter during the last year for all Extractives operations.

QUARTER	JUL-SEP 2019 Q1	OCT-DEC 2019 Q2	JAN-MAR 2020 Q3	APR-JUN 2020 Q4	TOTAL YEAR
Number of high potential incidents	19	28	34	15	96

TABLE 5: High potential incidents 2019/20 all quarters

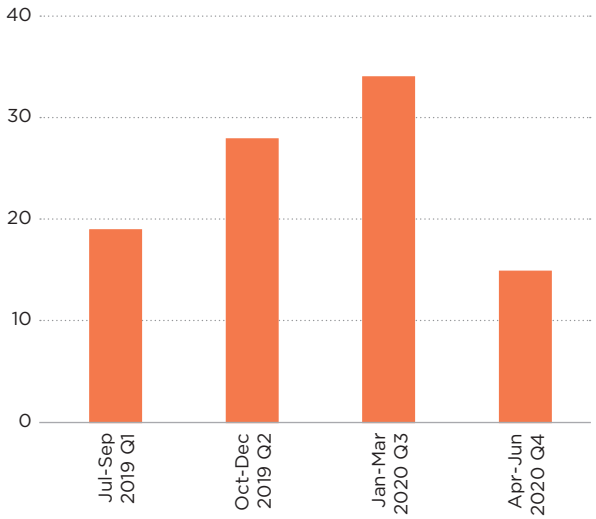

FIGURE 11: High potential incidents per quarter

The regulator

IN THIS SECTION:

3.1 Our activities

The Extractives Specialist Health and Safety Inspectors at WorkSafe use a range of interventions to undertake their duties. Inspectors strive to achieve the right mix of education, engagement and where required enforcement. This section of the report includes a summary of the interventions used by the Extractives Inspectors during the quarter.

3.2 Assessments

Proactive assessments aim to prevent incidents, injuries and illness through planned, risk-based interventions. Reactive activities are undertaken in response to reported safety concerns or notifiable events. Assessments can be either site- or desk-based in nature.

For proactive site-based assessments, the objectives of each visit are agreed and the appropriate inspection tool is selected. Targeted assessments and regulatory compliance assessments can take several days on site with a team of inspectors attending. These multi-day inspections may be 'targeted' to assess the controls in place for a particular principal hazard (for example, WorkSafe has been targeting 'Roads and other vehicle operating areas' as a result of the high number of notifiable events in this area), or they may involve a more general assessment of 'regulatory compliance'. Site inspections and targeted inspections are generally completed in a one day site visit but can also focus on specific topics.

As well as site-based assessments, the Inspectors spend considerable time undertaking desk-based assessments. Proactive desk-based assessments include the review of Principal Hazard Management Plans (PHMPs), Principal Control Plans (PCPs), mine plans, and high risk activity notifications. Responding to notifiable events and safety concerns may involve a site-based or desk-based assessment, or both.

Table 6 shows the range of assessments undertaken in Q4 2019/20 by sector.

		ASSESSMENTS	MINE	TUNNEL	ALLUVIAL MINE	QUARRY
Preventative	Site-based	Targeted assessments				
		Regulatory compliance assessments		1		
		Site inspections	12	2	3	34
		Targeted inspections	1			
	Desk-based	PHMP/PCP review		19		
		Mine plan review	3	1		
		High risk activity	6			
		COVID-19 assessment	19	4	5	39
Reactive	Site-based	Concerns – inspection	4			1
		Notifiable events – inspection	2			
	Desk-based	Concerns – desk-based	1			1
		Notifiable event – desk-based	9	2		18

TABLE 6: Proactive and reactive site and desk based assessments conducted in Q4 2019/20

Figure 12 shows the number of proactive and reactive site- and desk-based assessments undertaken by the regulator in Q4 2019/20. This quarter 31% of our activities were site-based, and 80% of activities were proactive.

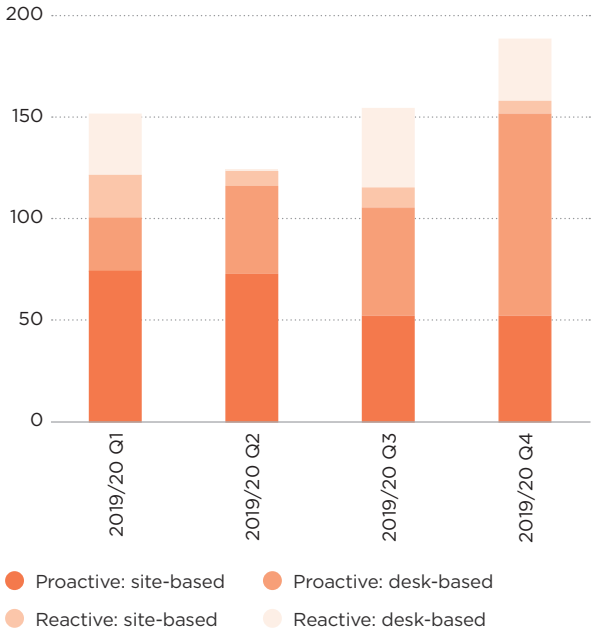

FIGURE 12:
Proactive and reactive site and desk-based assessments

Figure 13 shows the number of assessments undertaken by the regulator in Q4 2019/20 by sector. This quarter, 49% of our assessments were for quarries, 15% for tunnels, 32% for mines and 4% for alluvial mines.

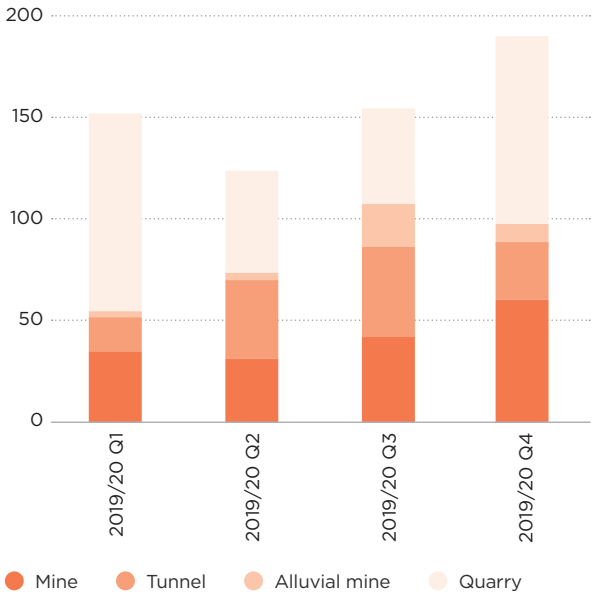

FIGURE 13:
Assessements by sector

3.3 Enforcements

Enforcement actions issued by WorkSafe include prohibition and improvement notices and directive letters. Enforcement actions are issued according to our Enforcement Decision Making (EDM) Model when health and safety issues are identified through assessments.

Figures 14 and 15 show the number of enforcement actions issued in Q4 2019/20 by notice type and by sector. This quarter, a total of 117 enforcement actions were issued. Of those, 12% of were prohibition notices, 20% were improvement notices, 67% were directive letters and 2% were sustained compliance notices. The majority of the enforcement actions were issued to the mining (16%) and quarrying (78%) sectors.

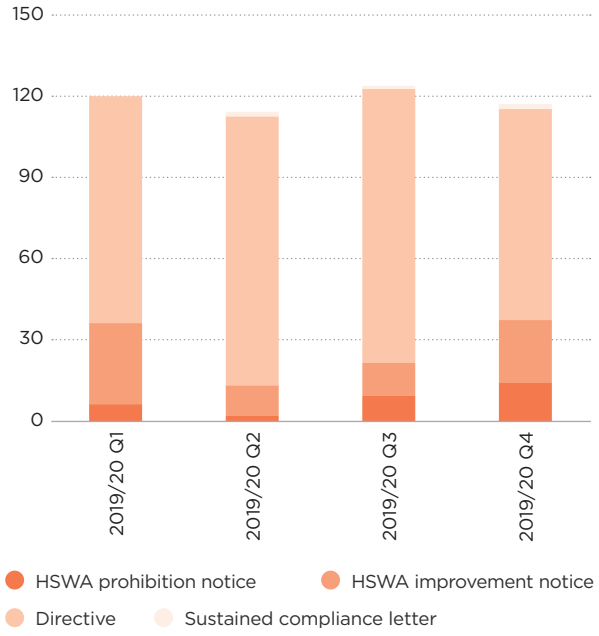

FIGURE 14: Enforcement actions issued by type

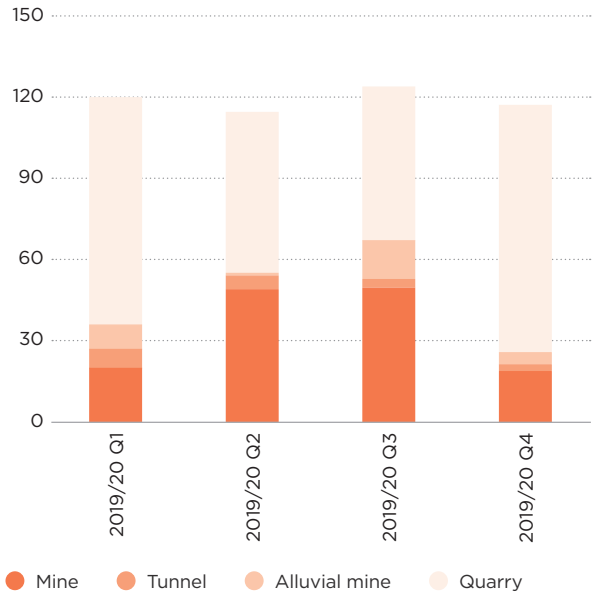

FIGURE 15: Enforcement actions issued by sector

Figure 16 shows the number of enforcement actions issued in Q4 2019/20 by category, and provides an indication of the key areas of concern to our inspectors. This quarter, the majority of enforcement actions were issued for health and safety issues relating to roads and other vehicle operating areas (24%).

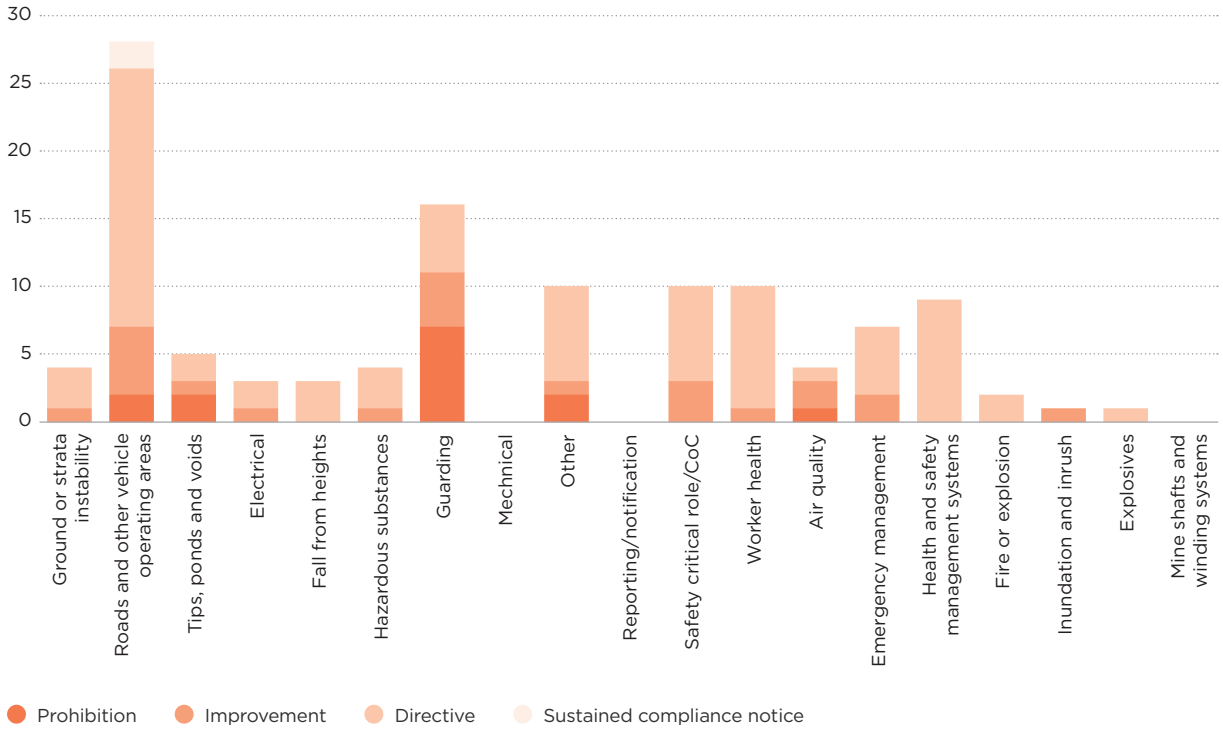

FIGURE 16: Enforcement actions issued by category 2019/20 Q4

Regulator activity comment

Inspection activities were down on a normal quarter due to the COVID-19 restrictions. But this reduction of normal activity was offset with the new requirement for the regulator to review the COVID-19 management plans. The regulator notes that the extractives industry developed good quality COVID-19 management plans. The risk assessment disciplines many persons have in the extractives industry resulted in operations being able to assess the hazards and new emergency health related legislation quite quickly and develop good plans to respond.

The extractives inspectors developed our own COVID-19 management response plan to ensure our staff remained healthy, but could, in certain circumstances, respond to notifiable incidents if required. The extractives team were one of the first groups within Worksafe to resume site inspections after the period of level 4 lockdown.

There was also a high number of tunnel PHMP and PCPs (19) reviewed during the lockdown period, which also contributed to the total number of assessments completed by the regulator. Overall the number of assessments was high, but the ratios of proactive and reactive was abnormal due to the higher percentage of desk based activity.

Enforcement action was generally in line with normal activity and generally aligned to the focus areas. There continues to be focus on worker health (dust control) and general guarding issues on many sites. The ratio of directives to notices reflects the more in depth systems analysis the extractives team undertake on many site inspections. That when there are gaps identified in the site systems which require improvement but by themselves do not represent immediate risk of harm, the issue of directives is appropriate. Where the risk is an obvious non-compliance improvement notices will be issued or in some circumstances where the risk is both obvious and immediate prohibition notices must be issued.

Disclaimer

WorkSafe New Zealand has made every effort to ensure the information contained in this publication is reliable, but makes no guarantee of its completeness.

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