

WorkSafe Tasmania

Principal Mining Inspector

Statement of Duties – September 2021

Objective

The Principal Mining Inspector is a highly specialised technical role in the Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines. The role has a primary focus on developing and implementing programs which reduce risks to health and safety at the underground mines and other sites and which facilitate compliance with the relevant legislation. The role is also required to mentor other mines inspectors and to act as the Chief Inspector of Mines when required.

Duties

- Identify, design, develop and implement strategies, systems and programs that improve health and safety standards and reduce risks to health and safety at the underground metalliferous and coal mines and other sites and ensure that such standards are administered, regulated and developed in the best interests of the state. In particular, these strategies, systems and programs will lead to the minimisation of risk from rockfalls and other principal mining hazards and will involve research into current best practice in these areas.
- Carry out appropriate research to ensure that Tasmania's mining safety standards are based on national and international best practice, resulting in the achievement of a significant reduction in risk at these sites.
- Remain abreast of contemporary knowledge in mine safety, to identify emerging trends and developments and to maintain a network of peers and specialists in and beyond the subject area.
- Facilitate, develop and maintain high-level strategic relationships with internal and external staff, industry bodies, local, state and commonwealth departments and authorities and other related organisations.
- Represent the department and the government professionally at state and national levels on a range of boards, committees and at conferences, as required.
- Provide high level strategic advice to the Chief Inspector of Mines, the Executive Director and other senior staff and key stakeholders, in relation to mine safety issues and emerging risks.
- Carry out technical inspections and audits of safety management systems and major hazard management plans at the underground mines.
- Carry out investigations into notifiable rockfalls, strata and rib failures and other notifiable incidents and complaints, to ensure that corrective actions are appropriate and that breaches of the legislation are addressed in accordance with the National Compliance and Enforcement Policy and WorkSafe Tasmania's internal policies.
- Mentor and guide the activities of the mines inspectors, particularly those who are involved in activities at the underground mines.
- Give evidence and provide information to Coronial inquests, enquiries and prosecutions.
- Act as the Chief Inspector of Mines when required.

Level of responsibility

- Work closely with the Chief Inspector of Mines and act as the Chief Inspector of Mines when necessary.
- Provide high level specialist and technical advice, guidance and support that contributes to the achievement of government and WorkSafe Tasmania's policies and objectives.
- Act as a lead advisor at a senior level on matters affecting mine safety.
- Effectively carry out all delegated statutory responsibilities.
- Provide high-level specialist professional and technical advice, guidance and support and deliver outcomes that contribute to the achievement of government and department policies and objectives.
- Ensure the effective management, oversight and monitoring of mining standards of underground mines and other sites, as directed by the Chief Inspector of Mines.

Direction and supervision received

- The Principal Mining Inspector operates with a high level of independence and autonomy and is expected to display a significant degree of initiative in the determination of priorities and objectives, in consultation with the Chief Inspector of Mines.
- Guidance and broad policy direction will be provided by the Chief Inspector of Mines and Executive Director.

Selection criteria

1. Minimum of ten years' experience in underground metalliferous mines, including experience in mining, geotechnical or technical services management.
2. Comprehensive knowledge of Australian underground metalliferous mining practices, including mine planning and approval, development, stoping, drilling, blasting and backfilling.
3. Comprehensive knowledge of mine safety legislation and its application, mine safety management systems, including major hazard management plans.
4. Demonstrated understanding of typical open pit and quarry hazards, risks and control measures.
5. High level ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with stakeholders in mine safety, including mine management and workers, health and safety representatives, unions and industry bodies.
6. Demonstrated ability to work both individually and as a team member in a collaborative and professional manner.
7. Proven capacity to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing; negotiate persuasively; resolve conflict; and develop effective networks.
8. Ability to demonstrate a high standard of professional and ethical behaviour and promote values and a workplace culture that supports these standards.

Essential requirements

- Bachelor degree, with a major or honours in mining engineering from a recognised university.
- Tasmanian driver's licence.

Desirable requirements

- Postgraduate qualifications and experience in geotechnical engineering
- Knowledge of underground coal mining practices

Position Summary

Title	Principal Mining Inspector
Number	356042
Award	Tasmanian State Service Award
Classification	Equivalent Specialist – Level I
Output Group	Regulatory Services
Full Time Equivalent	1.0
Division	WorkSafe Tasmania
Branch	Office of the Chief Inspector of Mines
Supervisor	Chief Inspector of Mines
Direct Reports	0
Location	Negotiable
Terms of Employment	Senior Executive Equivalent Specialist contract for a period of five years. Intrastate travel is required.
Position category and funding	A372.