

**FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE  
QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE BRIGADE**

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**AREAS TO BE COVERED IN THIS PRESENTATION:**

- 1. PAST HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE**
- 2. PRESENT DAY STATUS AND EXPECTED CHANGES**
- 3. REASONS FOR CHANGE OF ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE**
- 4. EXPECTATIONS OF QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE**

## 1. PAST HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE

THE QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE BRIGADE WAS OFFICIALLY FORMED IN 1909, DISBANDED IN 1918 AND REFORMED WITH A NEW STATION BEING BUILT IN DECEMBER 1923 AT BUNDAMBA.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS FORMATION FILLED THE NEEDS OF THE TIME AND HAS CONTINUED TO FILL THOSE NEEDS.

THE QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE BRIGADE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, THOSE OF WHICH INCLUDE:-

- BOX FLAT
- KIANGA
- MOURA NO.4
- LEICHARDT COLLIERY FIRE

THIS PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY AND FULL CREDIT IS DUE TO THE BRIGADE AND ITS MEMBERS.

SADLY, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LOSS OF MEMBERS WHILST PERFORMING OPERATIONS. THE LESSONS LEARNT FROM THESE AND OTHER WORLDWIDE EVENTS MUST BE STUDIED, REMEMBERED AND INCORPORATED WHERE RELEVANT.

## **2.PRESENT DAY STATUS AND EXPECTED CHANGES**

THE QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE BRIGADE PRESENTLY HAS FIVE RESCUE STATIONS WHICH INCLUDE:-

- BOOVAL
- MOURA
- COLLINSVILLE
- DYSART
- BLACKWATER

THE QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE BRIGADE HEAD OFFICE IS LOCATED ON THE DYSART STATION GROUNDS IN DYSART.

NINE PERMANENT STAFF ARE EMPLOYED, EIGHT OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLLIERIES STAFF ASSOCIATION.

THERE ARE 230 ACTIVE MEMBERS LOCATED THROUGHOUT QUEENSLAND. WE HAVE AN ACTIVE TO SUPPORT RATIO OF 3% THAT IS, 97% OF TRAINED PERSONNEL ARE IN OXYGEN TIME AND ABLE TO BE USED IMMEDIATELY IN THE CASE OF AN INCIDENT. THIS IS AN INCREASE FROM JANUARY 1993 WHEN 84% OF TRAINED PERSONNEL WERE IN OXYGEN TIME.

A NUMBER OF PROJECTS DESIGNED TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND THE PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF THE QMRB, ARE NOW IN PROGRESS. THESE INCLUDE:

- STANDARDISATION OF TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AND PROTOCOL
- CENTRAL ORGANISATION OF EQUIPMENT PURCHASE
- FORMULATION OF TRAINING MANUAL
- MOVEMENT TOWARDS BECOMING AN APPROVED TRAINING ORGANISATION.
- EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND AUDIT PROCEDURES
- FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT PROCEDURES
- SAFETY MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT PROCEDURES

## 2. PRESENT DAY STATUS AND EXPECTED CHANGES CONT.

### - STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

THIS DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATES:-

A) INDUSTRY NEEDS SURVEY AND ANALYSIS

B) FUTURE MINING TRENDS OF QUEENSLAND

C) FUTURE LOCATIONS OF PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT QLD

- STRICTER INTERNAL CONTROL OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEING EXERCISED.

- REVIEW OF LEVY AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS IS IN PROGRESS.

- REVIEW AND REWRITE OF LEGISLATION IS IN PROGRESS

- PLANNED RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNAL ORGANISATIONAL ENTITY IS IN PROGRESS.

- A NUMBER OF MAJOR CHANGES ARE PROGRAMMED TO OCCUR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THESE BEING:

A) QMRB TO BECOME QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE SERVICE. THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE IS TO INCLUDE:-

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- STATE MANAGER

- STATION AND ADMINISTRATION STAFF

- MEMBERS

B) THE QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE SERVICE WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES AND RECOUP RECOMPENSE FOR THESE ACTIVITIES.

### **3. REASONS FOR CHANGES TO ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE**

- MINING LEGISLATION IS MOVING TO A MORE ENCOMPASSING 'DUTY OF CARE' LEGISLATION. THUS PLACING A GREATER EMPHASIS FOR MINES RESCUE RESPONSIBILITY AND CAPABILITY ON COMPANY AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES.

- THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT THAT IS, THE MINING INDUSTRY IS CHANGING IN SIZE, METHOD OF PRODUCTION AND LOCATION. THE MINES RESCUE ORGANISATION MUST RESPOND TO THIS CHANGE AND TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY TO WHOM WE PROVIDE A SERVICE.

- MORE ACCOUNTABILITY IS BEING PLACED (AND RIGHTLY SO) ON ALL SERVICE INDUSTRIES TO PROVIDE VALUE FOR THE DOLLAR. THE QMRB NEEDS TO RECOGNISE THIS AND BECOME AND A SERVICE THAT OPERATES AS A PROFESSIONAL COST EFFECTIVE ORGANISATION ON A STATE WIDE BASIS.

- ALL LEVY PROVIDERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE COAL MINING ARENA HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROVIDED WITH AN AGREED SERVICE FOR THE DOLLAR PROVIDED THROUGH LEVY OR OTHER MEANS.

#### 4. EXPECTATIONS OF QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE

AS THE INDUSTRY NEEDS ANALYSIS OF QUEENSLAND MINES RESCUE IS NOT COMPLETED AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THE SUBSEQUENT STRATEGIC PLAN HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED. THE FULL EXPECTATIONS OF THE QUEENSLAND MINING INDUSTRY IS NOT FULLY KNOWN.

THERE ARE HOWEVER SOME BASE EXPECTATIONS THAT ARE INHERENT.

THESE ARE THAT THE QMRB (TO BECOME QMRS), EVOLVES AS AN ORGANISATION THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE TOTAL COAL MINING INDUSTRY IN A MANNER THAT IS:-

- PROVIDES THE REQUIRED INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT TO A COAL MINE INCIDENT
- PROFESSIONAL IN MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE
- COST EFFECTIVE IN OPERATIONS AND FINANCE
- PRO-ACTIVE IN AREAS OF SAFETY
- AS A RESOURCE BASE IN AREAS OF:

A) TRAINING

B) EQUIPMENT EVALUATION

C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE EVALUATION

- ATTUNE TO THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY, LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND MEMBERS