

MINES INSPECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1993*

NEW SOUTH WALES



EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament)

The Mines Inspection Act 1901 currently prohibits the employment of miners below ground, and of persons using certain machinery, for periods longer than those specified in the Act.

The object of this Bill is to repeal the relevant provisions of the Act and to provide instead that mine management has an obligation to consult with the workforce before fixing or altering hours of work and associated working arrangements (e.g. rostering, “hot seat” changeovers) for work below ground. The Bill also provides that, in fixing or altering hours of work and associated working arrangements, the management is to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983. The Chief Inspector of Mines is empowered to direct that hours or associated conditions be varied if of the opinion that they will adversely affect the health or safety of employees.

The Bill also requires work roster regimes to be prominently displayed and records of hours worked to be kept. It also makes a consequential amendment.

Clause 1 specifies the short title of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on a day to be appointed by proclamation.

Clause 3 gives effect to the Schedule of amendments to the Mines Inspection Act 1901.

Schedule 1 (1) repeals the existing sections 29 and 30 and inserts proposed new sections 29–30B. Proposed section 29 is concerned with fixing and altering hours of work and associated working arrangements below ground in a mine, while proposed section 30 empowers the Chief Inspector of Mines to direct, on health or safety grounds,

Mines Inspection (Amendment) 1993 [Act 1993 No. 35]

that the hours or arrangements be altered. Proposed section 30A requires the display of work roster regimes and proposed section 30B obliges mine managers to keep records of hours worked below ground.

Schedule 1 (2) makes a consequential amendment.
