



- [Mining & safety home](#)
- [Mining, exploration & petroleum](#)
- [Geoscience & resource information](#)
- [Safety & health](#)

[Mines home](#) > [Safety & health](#) > [Mining safety & health](#) > [Investigations, inquiries and inquests](#) > [Mining wardens inquiries](#) > Dean Michael WHITE

## Dean Michael WHITE

### Findings and Recommendations

[\[Schedule C\]](#) [\[Schedule D\]](#) [\[Schedule E\]](#)

*The Coal Mining Act 1925 - 1981*

Findings and recommendations of reviewers and mining warden following an inquiry into fatal injuries received by Dean Michael White at Glenden on 19 september 1990 warden's court of Quensland Mackay 29 november 1990

Before: F W Windridge esquire Warden

#### Reviewers:

- MR D J CORNISH
- MR A BONNEY
- MR R PARKIN
- MR S FIN

#### To assist:

Mr F B Biggam, inspector of mines

#### Appearances:

- MR M D MARTIN (instructed by Messrs Feez Ruthning) appearing for Elgas.
- MR B A CAMPBELL (of Wallace and Wallace) appearing for Tulk-Gooninan Limited
- MR T I MORGAN (of Baron and Alan) appearing for CIG
- MR MFG DEAN appearing for Newlands Coal Pty Ltd
- MR W ALLISON for United Mines' Federation and also district union inspector.

**Findings:** refer transcript and [schedule "c"](#)

**Recommendations:** refer transcript and [schedule "d"](#)

**Report of mining warden:** refer transcript and [schedule "e"](#)

#### Schedule "C" Findings:

We find:

Name of deceased: Dean Michael White

Date of death: 1 october 1990

Place of death: Royal Brisbane Hospital

**Cause of death:**

1(a) Pulmonary embolism

1(b) Deep venous thrombosis

1(c) Immobility from severe burns

**How death occurred:**

The deceased was working with a maintenance crew at the Newlands Mine at Glenden on 19 September 1990 when he received serious burns as a result of a gas explosion. Death occurred in Brisbane on 1 October 1990.

**Cause of accident:**

From the evidence we have heard we are satisfied that there was a build up of LP gas in the work area. There are a number of possible causes of the build up of gas. The panel has been unable to determine the exact cause but there are two possibilities -

- A leaking valve, and
- A damaged hose

The gas was ignited and it appears the probable ignition source was the flint gun activated by the deceased when he thought the area was clear of gas.

**Schedule "D" Recommendations:**

The recommendations of the reviewers are as follows:

The panel has considered the recommendations and these are those recommendations.

Mine induction shall cover the appropriate safety procedures on each mine site and the personnel in question shall be given task specific instructions to suit the nature of the work being carried out and the procedures to be followed.

Hotwork permit procedures shall be enforced at all mine sites to cover hazardous areas.

When people are welding, gouging, flame cutting, grinding or heating, in areas like the tub or revolving frame of draglines the area in question must be adequately ventilated.

Before any equipment is used on a mine site it must be examined by a competent person to ensure that it meets the appropriate Australian Standards.

When using any gas in enclosed areas regular testing of the atmosphere must be employed to detect any build-up of explosive gases.

The manufacturers of liquid petroleum gas must ensure that the percentage of ethyl mercaptan is in compliance with the appropriate Australian Standards AS1596 1983, every batch shall be tested and the results supplied to the chief gas examiner of Queensland.

No oxy or acetylene or fuel gas equipment shall be left unattended in any enclosed area.

Those are the recommendations of the reviewers.

**Schedule "E" Report of the Warden:**

I wish to place on the record appreciation for their assistance, your experience and expertise in the areas has been most valuable. Also, thank you inspector Biggam for your assistance in ensuring that all the relevant witnesses were available and the necessary reports were done. I think that concludes the proceedings. As far as we're aware there's no exhibits to go back,

they've been returned to the appropriate parties.

The inquiry is closed.

Last Updated 21 October 2007

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**Great state. Great opportunity.**