Fatal collision of dump truck and light vehicle at Peak Downs coal mine

Investigation update

16 October 2026

Resources Safety & Health Queensland

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***CONTENT WARNING**: This update contains descriptions and images of a fatal incident and provides information known at the time of writing to share important safety information. The information presented should be considered preliminary as investigations are ongoing that may alter the understanding of circumstances surrounding the incident.*

1.0 Summary

Shortly before 4:30am on Friday 24 July 2026, a collision occurred between a 793 rear dump truck and a light vehicle at Peak Downs surface coal mine near Moranbah in Central Queensland. The collision resulted in fatal injuries to the front seat passenger in the light vehicle.

2.0 The incident

Immediately prior to the incident, 2 rear dump trucks were queued waiting to be loaded in the active mining area. A light vehicle with a passenger approached one of the rear dump trucks that was stationary on the ramp waiting to enter the active mining area.

The driver of the light vehicle made radio contact with both operators of the rear dump trucks. Following radio contact, the lead dump truck travelled through the active mining area.

At this time, the light vehicle was parked on an angle positioned at the front right-hand side of the second dump truck as shown in **Figure 1**. Shortly thereafter, the light vehicle drove slightly forward and then the second dump truck drove forward over the top of the passenger side of the light vehicle.

An emergency was called and an operation was commenced to free both occupants of the light vehicle. The driver and passenger were freed by emergency services. The driver was transported to hospital for treatment.



Figure 1: A diagram depicting the position and movement of the two vehicles

3.0 The investigation

Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) immediately commenced an investigation to determine the cause of the incident. As part of the investigation, the effectiveness of controls to eliminate or minimise risks arising from mobile plant and light vehicle interactions will be examined, including the:

- adequacy of risk assessments, work instructions and procedures
- setup of work areas and traffic management
- instruction, training, experience and supervision of workers
- communication leading up to the incident
- fitness for work.

The mine operator and other parties are assisting with the investigation that is ongoing.

4.0 Safety observations

Mobile plant and light vehicle interaction is a well-known risk in mining operations. Mine operators and contractors are reminded of their obligations to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999* and its subordinate Regulation.

In particular, mine operators and contractors must:

- ensure separation between mobile plant and light vehicles is adequately monitored and verified by safety and health management system review and auditing mechanisms
- where reasonably practicable, incorporate the use of available technology to control mobile plant interactions such as proximity detection and collision avoidance systems
- provide workers with appropriate instruction and supervision to ensure effective positive communications are maintained by operators, using clear methods of identification
- ensure that when changes are made to a work area – including signage – these changes are communicated to the affected workforce
- effectively monitor fitness for work including fatigue.

5.0 References and further information

Please refer to the following guidance material:

- Guidance Note QGN27 – Collision prevention
- Safety Alert #482 – Fatal accident involving light vehicle at coal mine
- Safety Alert #419 – Mobile plant reversing into light vehicle