GROSVENOR MINE INQUIRY SUBMISSION

**GROSVENOR MINE AND TORBANLEA SIMILARITIES**

[**http://mineaccidents.com.au/uploads/report-of-the-royal-commission(1).pdf**](http://mineaccidents.com.au/uploads/report-of-the-royal-commission(1).pdf)

**RECOMMENDATION 1**

**Before any interim Report be submitted to Mines Minister, all Parties at the Inquiry first read the Torbanlea Royal Commission Report 1990 from start to finish.**

**RECOMMENDATION 2**

**As a matter of urgency all Royal Commissions, Mining Warden and other Inquiries into Queensland Mining Disasters from 1990 be collated.**

**(Disaster is Defined by Mining terminology to be 3 or more fatalities in the one event)**

**This to comprise as a Minimum the full Transcript where available, and Reports when not.**

**RECOMMENDATION 3**

**A suitable formal Training and Assessment Package on all Mining Disasters be created.**

**RECOMMENDATION 4**

**All Current Statutory Officials including the RSHQ Inspectors to be trained and assessed in the Package within 1 Calendar Year.**

**RECOMMENDATION 5**

**The training and assessment package be a compulsory module for all Statutory Officials Training Courses.**

**RECOMMENDATION 6**

**All those seeking Statutory Tickets from other Jurisdictions must complete the Package and be assessed as competent.**

**The circumstance of the multi-fatality explosion at Torbanlea are the closest to the circumstances at Grosvenor in the history of Queensland Underground Coal Mining Disasters.**

1. **Five Coal Face Mine Workers were involved in each.**
2. **They were Contract Coal Miners, not permanently employed by the Mine Operator/Owner**
3. **The most likely source of the Methane gas that exploded was through floor blowers.**
4. **The blowers came from a gassy seam some 2 feet below the mined seam and the inter-burden stone band that was too hard to remove except by explosive.**
5. **They were mining in the immediate vicinity of a fault and no methane was detected 15 minutes before the fatal explosion.**
6. **After the incident it was noted by all except the Mine Manager that there was evidence of floor heave that was not there prior to the explosion.**

**The parallels between the apparent attitudes of Mine Owners, General Managers (Site Senior Executives today), Underground Mine Managers and lastly the Mines Inspectors are proof yet again; that despite the in some ways exponential technological progress in the last 120 years little has been achieved improving the way safety in managed in Queensland Coal Mines.**

**Those Owners, General Managers and “Appointed Underground Managers” from both the Burrum and Ipswich Field were**

**1) Almost exclusively from “The Old Country” as they all refer to it in the Testimony. The OLD COUNTRY covered Scotland, Wales and England.**

**2) Only 2 had any Managers Certificates and only one of those had done any study and passed exams to obtain it. The other had received a Certificate of Service as he was working as a Mine Manager when the Coal Mining Act of 1872 was passed.**

**3) Most had not worked in methane rich mines in the Old Country or “Fiery Mines” as they refer to them.**

**4) The only “Queensland Industry” Manager was the Manager at Waterstone Colliery and he had no Statutory Qualifications at all**

**COMPETENT PEOPLE NEED TO MAKE FIRM SAFETY FOCUSED DECISIONS WHEN AND WHERE REQUIRED**

**You can as many 2-inch thick, poorly done Safety and Health Systems and Procedures as you like.**

**No matter how many whiz bang gas detectors and analysis equipment you have.**

**No matter what computer ventilation simulations, cameras, expert studies, and odd formal audit you have.**

**You can attend as many annual Mine Safety and Health Conferences on the Gold Coast you you like.**

**You really need People in Statutory charge who are actually competent, and legally assessed and recognised as such.**

**They need written, clear, concise, Roles and Responsibilities for the position under the Mines Safety and Health System and Procedures**

**They need to make those decisions when and where required.**

**IT SEEMS WE HAVE NOT PROGRESSED IN 120 YEARS.**