

MINING INDUSTRY SUMMIT — DRIVING RESPECT

Statement by Minister for Industrial Relations

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations) [1.22 pm]: The mining industry summit, Driving Respect, is a key government commitment to recommendation 23 of the *‘Enough is enough’: Sexual harassment against women in the FIFO mining industry* report. It saw a welcome response from across the mining sector and community. The summit was aimed to educate, inspire and empower leaders to drive respect and take meaningful action towards preventing and responding to sexual harassment.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, in consultation with Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety—MARS—program agency partners, including the Department of Communities, the Mental Health Commission and the Equal Opportunity Commission, engaged with a variety of stakeholders, including the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, unions, not-for-profits, industry experts and academics to develop the summit program and proceedings.

The summit was held on 1 August 2023 and was attended by people who can influence cultural change in the mining industry, including CEOs, senior site executives, mine and exploration managers, contractors, health and safety professionals, unions, industry experts and the like.

Holly Ransom, a renowned leadership speaker, facilitated the proceedings of the summit. Keynote speakers included Professor Sharon Parker, who spoke on the MARS program landmark study and shared the preliminary findings from the study; Dr Dean Laplonge, a global expert challenging gender norms and practices in the mining sector, who discussed his regional roadshow findings; and Kate Jenkins, AO, former Sex Discrimination Commissioner, who provided a broad context on her work delivering the landmark *Respect@Work: National inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces* report.

The keynote speeches were complemented by a range of panel sessions that explored ways to eradicate sexual harassment in the mining industry, the importance of building diverse and inclusive workspaces, and uncovering drivers of gender violence.

Hon Roger Cook, MLA, Premier; Hon Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Women’s Interests; and I in my capacity as Minister for Industrial Relations, as well as leaders from across WA and the mining sector, spoke of the commitment to support key programs and working with industry to create a workplace culture that is free from violence, harassment and discrimination.

The summit was attended by approximately 1 200 people and showed a real commitment by government, unions and industry to eliminate the hazards of workplace gender-based harassment. The feedback from the speakers and participants has been positive, with many commenting that the event was excellent and important for the industry. The reports from the media thus far have also been positive.

The summit was an important opportunity to communicate about building respectful workplaces and influencing leaders at all levels to continue to drive positive change. The discussions and feedback from the summit, including presentations from Kate Jenkins, AO, and the Premier, recognised that the mining industry needs to improve, and all industries need to address the significant issues of sexual harassment in the workplace.