



Government of **Western Australia**  
**WorkSafe Commissioner**

# Inquiry into the **agricultural industry in Western Australia**

Final progress report prepared for the  
Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister  
for Industrial Relations

March 2026



# Introduction

On 22 March 2023, Independent Inquirer Pamela Scott released the *Inquiry into the agricultural industry in Western Australia: Report to the WorkSafe Commissioner*, providing valuable insight into the risks and challenges contributing to the high number of fatalities and serious injuries in the sector. I would like to thank Ms Scott for her important work, and acknowledge former WorkSafe Commissioner Darren Kavanagh for initiating this critical inquiry in June 2022, following the twelfth work-related death related to agriculture in a 12-month period.

WorkSafe has taken significant steps to implement the inquiry's recommendations, expanding its guidance materials, education programs and compliance services in close consultation with industry stakeholders, worker representatives and peak bodies.

Agriculture remains one of the highest-risk industries in Western Australia. Too many lives continue to be lost, and serious injuries remain far too common.

I call on industry groups, influential employers and industry leaders to take active responsibility for improving safety practices and reducing harm in agricultural workplaces.

This report is the final progress report for the implementation of the inquiry recommendations. The inquiry findings and recommendations have been integrated into WorkSafe's ongoing operations, ensuring agricultural safety remains a key focus of our business-as-usual activities.

WorkSafe remains committed to supporting lasting change and safer workplaces across the sector.

**Sally North**

WorkSafe Commissioner

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## Organisational context

Responsibility for regulating health and safety in Western Australia (WA) was established with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (OSH Act), and has, over time, resided with multiple government agencies.

Machinery of government changes in 2017 led to the merger of the Department of Commerce and the Department of Mines and Petroleum, forming the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS).

On 1 December 2023, DMIRS was renamed the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) to reflect the importance of WA's energy portfolio.

Subsequently, on 1 July 2025, DEMIRS became the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS) following public sector reform.

The WorkSafe Group within LGIRS provides regulatory and policy oversight of work health and safety in WA. Oversight under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, which replaced the OSH Act in 2022, is carried out by the WorkSafe Commissioner as the regulator.



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# Summary of recommendations for Government

	Recommendation	Government response	Status
1	That DMIRS <sup>1</sup> and the Commissioner continue to utilise the ANZSIC codes for their own internal purposes, but that they be supplemented with other data sources.	Supported	Implemented
2	That DMIRS and the Commissioner utilise the Agriculture and support services (05) subdivisions of the ANZSIC codes separately rather than the Agriculture, forestry and fishing major division (01), for the purpose of focussing attention of the farming sector on fatalities and serious injuries.	Supported	Implemented
3	That in the allocation of resources amongst industries, the agricultural industry be prioritised, both within the WorkSafe Group of DMIRS and externally.		
	3.1 Within the WorkSafe Group	Supported	Implemented
	(a) A dedicated, specialist Agricultural Team be established within the new WorkSafe Group within DMIRS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the Agricultural Team to include inspectors and liaison officers, similar to those in the Mines Safety inspection team.</li> <li>• Given the need for the Team to gain the respect of the agricultural industry, Team members to be specifically recruited for this team.</li> <li>• Consideration be given to the location of Team members.</li> </ul>		
	(b) The Team's objective, and accordingly their work allocations and resources, be to set out a plan for inspections for the next five years and the plan to be implemented. Its work will primarily be proactive and the plan will include key performance indicators for proactive activities. This plan ought to be publicised widely including the sectors to be inspected. Direct contact to be made with farmers alerting them that they will be inspected on a given date.	Supported	Implemented for 2025–26 and ongoing
	(c) Its activities will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactive regulatory and advisory inspections;</li> <li>• Attendance at industry events;</li> <li>• Development of, and updating, a comprehensive agricultural industry web page, including the use of materials from other jurisdictions (with their agreement), along with other materials already developed for the industry;</li> <li>• Materials to be translated into languages relevant to the workforce;</li> <li>• Development of a newsletter directed at farmers and their workers;</li> <li>• Engagement with industry media to publish a regular column about farm safety and ABC regional radio for a farm safety segment;</li> <li>• Reactive inspections.</li> </ul>	Supported	Implemented for 2025–26 and ongoing

<sup>1</sup> On 1 July 2025, DMIRS was restructured and renamed The Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety (LGIRS).

	Recommendation	Government response	Status
3	<p>(d) A senior level manager to be appointed to lead this team to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit and train inspectors for the particular attributes, attitudes and needs directed towards the agricultural industry;</li> <li>• Except in particular cases, guide an approach that prioritises the provision of information and advice. The regulator used such an approach in accordance with the Statement of regulatory intent, for the first year of the implementation of the WHS Act. In this case though, given the need to change long term attitudes, this approach ought to apply for at least two years;</li> <li>• Set targets for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Inspections;</li> <li>– Events;</li> <li>– Readership of newsletters and web page information;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Engage with industry leaders, external media and psychology experts to develop and publish media campaigns targeted to particular groups, issues and attitudes. These media campaigns to be played regularly over a number of years. Repetition is essential to embedding the message. Their effectiveness then needs to be assessed;</li> <li>• Engage with the industry to identify and enlist the support of leaders who are farmers to promote safety;</li> <li>• Through the Commissioner and the Work Health and Safety Commission, develop an overarching code of practice, or a suite of codes, specific to the agricultural industry.</li> </ul> <p>(e) Major activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agricultural Team to set a proactive and preventative program of inspections of a number of sectors each year.</li> <li>• The activities to include groups of inspectors attending, for example, no less than three farming centres each year to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Conduct a public event: the public event would focus on a seminar or demonstration and use the opportunity to alert the local industry that there will be, within say three months, inspections of farms in that area. They would provide to those attending: checklists, workbooks, details of the advisory service to be outlined later in this Term of reference, as well as reference to reputable consultancy and training organisations. The public event could be held on the property of an industry leader or other willing host;</li> <li>– Inspections: this activity to include a set number of inspections in the area undertaken at the instigation of the team;</li> <li>– Review: approximately a month after the inspections, the team returns to the farming centres with a further public event, to inform the industry participants of the results of the inspections, including to provide positive feedback.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Supported	Completed (recruitment)  Ongoing (other points)
		Supported	Implemented for 2025–26 and ongoing

	Recommendation	Government response	Status
3	<p>3.2 Advisory service</p> <p>(a) An advisory service to farmers be established in partnership with an industry organisation. Appropriate industry bodies for the partnership would include farming organisations such as those who have partnered with Victorian and New South Wales Governments, or engagement through a private organisation or a not-for-profit organisation. Alternatively, it may be administered internally by WorkSafe, as is the Tasmanian scheme and was the former ThinkSafe scheme in Western Australia.</p> <p>(b) This advisory service would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be staffed by advisors with administrative support;</li> <li>• Have advisors who are recruited on the basis of their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Knowledge of agricultural safety;</li> <li>– Ability to gain confidence of farmers and farm workers;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Have advisors without regulatory powers;</li> <li>• Provide advice to the benefit of the farmer;</li> <li>• Work with industry associations to promote the service;</li> <li>• Initiate advisory auditing visits to a substantial number of farms per annum;</li> <li>• Conduct a proactive program of visits aimed at particular sectors each year, plus a reactive program to respond to requests for visits;</li> <li>• Attend agricultural events such as field days;</li> <li>• Host events with either a general or specific focus, for example an event to demonstrate safe bog extraction techniques as is provided in Victoria;</li> <li>• Create a comprehensive, up to date website.</li> </ul> <p>(c) The information resources for this service may be able to be developed with the assistance of, or in conjunction with, the Tasmanian, Victorian and New South Wales programs.</p>	Supported	To be considered in future planning subject to resourcing
4	That a fund be established through a levy on the industry and matching contributions by government. The purpose of the fund be to undertake ongoing media campaigns and other activities aimed at promoting safety in agriculture.	Noted, for discussion with the State Government	Not to be progressed
5	<p>Steps to be taken to raise the industry's awareness of the consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements including:</p> <p>5.1 Creating and publicising, on the agricultural industry webpages, information about the consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements. Such information ought to be made available in the languages represented in the agricultural industry workforce;</p>	Supported	Implemented

	Recommendation	Government response	Status
5	5.2 The participation of industry groups be sought to publicise these obligations and arrangements. The grower groups may be the most effective as they may be able to assist in the development of information targeting the particular circumstances of their sector.	Supported	In progress
	5.3 Utilising the public events associated with inspections campaigns referred to in Term of reference (d), to educate farmers and workers about consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements.	Supported	Implemented and ongoing
	5.4 The external advisory service also be tasked with educating farmers and workers about the arrangements.	Supported	To be considered in future planning subject to resourcing
6	6.1 That a suite of codes of practice and guidance notes directed to the agricultural industry and its various sectors be developed.	Agree in principal	Implemented in principle
	6.2 The codes of practice and guidance notes be written as simple "how to" and "how not to" documents.	Agree in principal	Noted
7	7.1 The regulator and the industry engage with machinery and equipment manufacturers and dealers to draw attention to the need for machinery and equipment to be fit for purpose, to remove the need for farmers to modify them, especially by removing guards.	Supported	Implemented and ongoing
	7.2 These be a repeated campaign of safety alerts to farmers regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their use of quad bikes without ROP;</li> <li>• their riding vehicles, such as quad bikes, motorbikes and horses without helmets;</li> <li>• wearing seatbelts;</li> <li>• reading labels on equipment;</li> <li>• safe jacking, chocking and retrieval of vehicles from bog;</li> <li>• removing guarding from machinery.</li> </ul> This campaign to be targeted at the appropriate groups. It may feature well-respected senior farmers. The campaign needs to run repeatedly for several years to embed the messages and practices in the culture.	Supported	Ongoing
	7.3 That funding be made available for a specified period to encourage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• retrofitting ROP;</li> <li>• upgrading yards and races to assist in the physical separation of workers from large animals;</li> <li>• lone worker emergency contact systems.</li> </ul>	Noted, for discussion with the State Government	Not to be progressed
	7.4 The regulator draw to the industry's attention the codes of practice and guidance notes for dealing with some of these well-known hazards.	Supported	Implemented

	Recommendation	Government response	Status
8	<p>That the regulator investigate and action a way to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide timely information to the agricultural industry about the causes of fatalities and serious injuries as well as the preventative actions available to the industry;</li> <li>• obviate the provision of that information compromising any potential prosecutions or potentially raising other legal issues; and</li> <li>• ensure that families and others such as PCBUs and work colleagues of the deceased or seriously injured person are provided with advance notice of the publication and are supported.</li> </ul>	Supported	Implemented

# Recommendations for Government

## Recommendation 1

That DMIRS and the Commissioner continue to utilise the ANZSIC codes for their own internal purposes, but that they be supplemented with other data sources.

## Recommendation 2

That DMIRS and the Commissioner utilise the Agriculture and Support Services (05) subdivisions of the ANZSIC codes separately rather than the agriculture, forestry and fishing major division (01), for the purpose of focussing attention of the farming sector on fatalities and serious injuries.

WorkSafe reviewed the ANZSIC codes and identified those relevant to agriculture. Those codes were incorporated as part of the strategic direction for the inspectorate, as well as to support reporting of activities undertaken through the internal recording platform. This will help with the handling of data sources and support trend information to substantiate the focus high risk areas of concern that were acknowledged by inspectors through compliance activities undertaken.

## Recommendation 3

That in the allocation of resources amongst industries, the agricultural industry be prioritised, both within the WorkSafe Group of DMIRS and externally.

### 3.1 Within the WorkSafe Group

- (a) A dedicated specialist Agricultural Team be established within the new WorkSafe Group within DMIRS:
- Members of the Agricultural Team to include inspectors and liaison officers, similar to those in the Mines Safety inspection team.
  - Given the need for the Team to gain the respect of the agricultural industry, Team members to be specifically recruited for this team.
  - Consideration be given to the location of Team members.

The Agriculture Compliance Program was developed to introduce the approach of inspections to farmers and other stakeholders by way of notification through various communication modes.

The Agriculture Compliance Program has become part of the Business Plan for WorkSafe's Industrial and Regional Directorate and encompasses both compliance and education initiatives by inspectors supported by the Regulatory Support Division. Project activities are tracked and recorded within WorkSafe's regulatory management system, WISE.

Data indicated that within the agriculture sector, the Wheatbelt suffered the greatest number of work-related fatalities. This supported the strategic direction for WorkSafe to commence its compliance initiatives targeting the broadacre and livestock farming within this region. As part of the roll out of various initiatives from WorkSafe, which covered both compliance and educational activities, the sharing of relevant work health and safety information to farmers was prioritised.

In July 2023, WorkSafe formed a team of specialist agriculture-experienced inspectors reporting to the Regional and Primary Industries Manager. In 2025, a separate agriculture team was created. A recently appointed level 7 team leader manages one level 6 position, who provides technical leadership, and five level 5 positions.

While the positions are currently located in Bunbury and Perth, WorkSafe takes a flexible approach to the location of the prospective inspectors and is open to inspectors being based in Bunbury, Albany, Perth or Collie.

- (b) The Team's objective, and accordingly, their work allocations and resources, be to set out a plan for inspections for the next five years and the plan to be implemented. Its work will primarily be proactive, and the plan will include key performance indicators for proactive activities. This plan ought to be publicised widely including the sectors to be inspected. Direct contact to be made with farmers alerting them that they will be inspected on a given date.
- (c) Its activities will be:
- proactive regulatory and advisory inspections
  - attendance at industry events
  - development of, and updating, a comprehensive agricultural industry web page, including the use of materials from other jurisdictions (with their agreement), along with other materials already developed for the industry
  - materials to be translated into languages relevant to the workforce
  - development of a newsletter directed at farmers and their workers
  - engagement with industry media to publish a regular column about farm safety and ABC regional radio for a farm safety segment
  - reactive inspections.

A compliance plan has been produced for the agriculture unit. A stakeholder relations officer works with the team supporting events and information products.

With the appointment of the stakeholder relations officer, WorkSafe was able to deliver on its Agriculture Communications Strategy and provide strategic support and advice in arranging an ever-growing contact database of relevant stakeholders and champions within the sector.

The agriculture unit has initially focused on training the new inspectors. The agriculture inspectors are attending a range of events and regional shows.

A campaign of educational farm visits was conducted in the Narrogin area in August 2024. It commenced with an event held at the Narrogin Agricultural College and involved visits to farms with dissemination of information on farm safety and mental health.

As part of the education campaign, WorkSafe has subscribed to the *Farm Weekly's* newspaper and routinely publishes a column on various matters pertaining to farm safety, including updates from the WorkSafe Commissioner. This has also been supported by ad hoc radio interviews by the WorkSafe Commissioner.

- (d) A senior level manager to be appointed to lead this team to:
- Recruit and train inspectors for the particular attributes, attitudes and needs directed towards the agricultural industry;
  - Except in particular cases, guide an approach that prioritises the provision of information and advice. The regulator used such an approach in accordance with the Statement of regulatory intent, for the first year of the implementation of the WHS Act. In this case though, given the need to change long term attitudes, this approach ought to apply for at least two years;
  - Set targets for:
    - Inspections;
    - Events;
    - Readership of newsletters and web page information;
  - Engage with industry leaders, external media and psychology experts to develop and publish media campaigns targeted to particular groups, issues and attitudes. These media campaigns to be played regularly over a number of years. Repetition is essential to embedding the message. Their effectiveness then needs to be assessed;
  - Engage with the industry to identify and enlist the support of leaders who are farmers, to promote safety;
  - Through the Commissioner and the Work Health and Safety Commission, develop an overarching code of practice, or a suite of codes, specific to the agricultural industry.

The issue of codes of practice was raised with the Work Health and Safety Commission. The Work Health and Safety Commission determined it was preferable to integrate agricultural examples into general purpose codes, as it is not practicable to produce codes for each high risk sector. In keeping with the needs of the sector, the *First steps to farm safety: guide* was developed, along with other useful resources on the website, including information sheets, videos and podcasts.

WorkSafe has an awareness campaign called *ThinkSafe. WorkSafe.*, which aims to improve work practices to achieve better health and safety outcomes for workers. As part of this campaign, WorkSafe generated content to raise awareness about agricultural safety, particularly during Farm Safety Week.

(e) Major activities

- The Agricultural Team to set a proactive and preventative program of inspections of a number of sectors each year.
- The activities to include groups of inspectors attending, for example, no less than three farming centres each year to:
  - Conduct a public event – the public event would focus on a seminar or demonstration and use the opportunity to alert the local industry that there will be, within say three months, inspections of farms in that area. They would provide to those attending: checklists, workbooks, details of the advisory service to be outlined later in this Term of reference, as well as reference to reputable consultancy and training organisations. The public event could be held on the property of an industry leader or other willing host;
  - Inspections – this activity to include a set number of inspections in the area undertaken at the instigation of the team;
  - Review – approximately a month after the inspections, the team returns to the farming centres with a further public event, to inform the industry participants of the results of the inspections, including to provide positive feedback.

Inspectors attended Field Day events at Wagin, Mingenew, Dowerin, and Newdegate in 2023 and 2024. Due to the State Government caretaker period from February to March 2025, the agricultural team did not attend any field days in the first half of 2025. The focus in 2025–26 is on smaller industry specific field days.

A public event was held in Narrogin on 2 August 2024 to inform the community of upcoming educational visits to farms and hand out guidance material.

As part of National Safe Work Month, a Farm Safety Forum was held in October 2024 with the theme, Health and safety is everybody's business. [Videos of the presentations](#) are available online. Inspectors from the agriculture unit attended and some presented at the event. In May 2025 WorkSafe held an information session for growers by invitation from Pomewest and Stonefruit WA. In July 2025, a forum was held in Merredin and streamed online, with speakers from WorkSafe and other organisations.

From 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025, there were 277 investigations with 227 site visits and 52% of the investigations were proactive. Of these, twenty inspections were conducted in 2023–2024 under the agriculture plant and machinery compliance project. There is a forward plan for inspections under the WorkSafe Industrial and Regional business plan.

### 3.2 Advisory service

- (a) An advisory service to farmers be established in partnership with an industry organisation. Appropriate industry bodies for the partnership would include farming organisations such as those who have partnered with Victorian and New South Wales Governments, or engagement through a private organisation or a not-for-profit organisation. Alternatively, it may be administered internally by WorkSafe, as is the Tasmanian scheme and was the former ThinkSafe scheme in Western Australia.
- (b) This advisory service would:
- Be staffed by advisors with administrative support;
  - Have advisors who are recruited on the basis of their:
    - Knowledge of agricultural safety;
    - Ability to gain confidence of farmers and farm workers;
  - Have advisors without regulatory powers;
  - Provide advice for the benefit of the farmer;
  - Work with industry associations to promote the service;
  - Initiate advisory auditing visits to a substantial amount of farms per annum;
  - Conduct a proactive program of visits aimed at particular sectors each year, plus a reactive program to respond to requests for visits;
  - Attend agricultural events such as field days;
  - Host events with either a general or specific focus, for example an event to demonstrate safe bog extraction techniques as is provided in Victoria;
  - Create a comprehensive, up to date website.
- (c) The information resources for this service may be able to be developed with the assistance of, or in conjunction with the Tasmanian, Victorian and New South Wales programs.

With funding from a State Government grant administered by WorkSafe, SafeFarms WA continues its independent work in informing and advising the sector.

## Recommendation 4

That a fund be established through a levy on the industry and matching contributions by government. The purpose of the fund be to undertake ongoing media campaigns and other activities aimed at promoting safety in agriculture.

This recommendation was noted by the WorkSafe Commissioner. Discussions were held with WorkCover to consider viability of an insurance-based levy; however, this is not considered to be currently viable.

## Recommendation 5

Steps to be taken to raise the industry's awareness of the consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements including:

- 5.1 Creating and publicising, on the agricultural industry webpages, information about the consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements. Such information ought to be made available in the languages represented in the agricultural industry workforce;

WorkSafe's [agriculture website](#) provides information about consultation, participation and representation with sections on responsibilities and duties in agriculture under the WHS Act; including those of the person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU), officers, workers, volunteers and others.

WorkSafe produced guidance in [several different languages](#).

5.2 The participation of industry groups be sought to publicise these obligations and arrangements. The grower groups may be the most effective as they may be able to assist in the development of information targeting the particular circumstances of their sector.

As a priority, WorkSafe has engaged and consulted with relevant industry stakeholders from peak bodies, unions and associations working within the agriculture sector. The formal membership committee known as the Agriculture Safety Advisory Committee, chaired by the Deputy WorkSafe Commissioner, has been routinely meeting to discuss and address areas of improvement within the sector.

The Work Health and Safety Commission has appointed members from:

- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA
- Country Women's Association WA
- Edith Cowan University
- Farm Machinery and Industry Association of WA
- Motor Trade Association WA
- Pastoralist and Graziers Association of WA
- Safe Farms WA
- Unions WA
- WA Farmers
- WA Shearing Industry Association
- WA Vegetables Association
- WorkSafe.

5.3 Utilising the public events associated with inspections campaigns referred to in Term of reference (d), to educate farmers and workers about consultation, participation and representation obligations and arrangements.

WorkSafe inspectors routinely talk to PCBUs and workers about their responsibilities under the WHS Act, including consultation, while at industry field days and events and also during inspections. As a drive to raise work health and safety awareness, WorkSafe has developed flyers, banners and information fact sheets that are currently being used by the inspectors when they attend farm safety days and industry events.

5.4 The external advisory service also be tasked with educating farmers and workers about the arrangements.

To be considered in future subject to funding.

## Recommendation 6

- 6.1 That a suite of codes of practice and guidance notes directed to the agricultural industry and its various sectors be developed.

With reference to the response under Recommendation 3, the Work Health and Safety Commission considered the development of agriculture-specific codes of practice. The Work Health and Safety Commission determined it was preferable to integrate agricultural examples into general purpose codes as it is not practicable to produce codes for each high risk sector. The Work Health and Safety Commission is willing to consider developing agriculture-specific guidance material as the need arises.

Similarly, WorkSafe is committed to producing and updating other types of guidance material for the agricultural industry as and when the need arises.

- 6.2 The codes of practice and guidance notes be written as simple “how to” and “how not to” documents.

On 5 March 2024, WorkSafe published the [\*First steps to farm safety: Guide\*](#), geared towards farmers wanting to start their safety journey. The guide provides a foundation for establishing good safety practices on farms. It has since received support and appreciation from the Work Health and Safety Commission.

The *First steps to farm safety: Guide* is available in hard copy and is in a simple ‘how to’ format. The guide has also been translated into simplified Chinese and Vietnamese.

The guide is made up of two significant elements. The first relates to setting up a basic safety system that allows a farmer to comply with their work health and safety obligations. The second focuses on the main hazards that contributed to fatalities on farms over the past two years.

## Recommendation 7

- 7.1 The regulator and the industry engage with machinery and equipment manufacturers and dealers to draw attention to the need for machinery and equipment to be fit for purpose, to remove the need for farmers to modify them, especially by removing guards.

Inspectors have visited machinery manufacturers to check work health and safety compliance. Twenty inspections were conducted under the agriculture plant and machinery compliance project in 2023–24.

- 7.2 There be a repeated campaign of safety alerts to farmers regarding:

- their use of quad bikes without ROP;
- their riding vehicles, such as quad bikes, motorbikes and horses without helmets;
- wearing seatbelts;
- reading labels on equipment;
- safe jacking, chocking and retrieval of vehicles from bog;
- removing guarding from machinery.

This campaign to be targeted at the appropriate groups. It may feature well-respected senior farmers.

The campaign needs to run repeatedly for several years to embed the messages and practices in the culture.

Some of these issues have been covered in the *Farm Weekly* articles, Th!nkSafe magazine and social media posts. Safety alerts were also issued about fatalities involving farm machinery.

In addition, WorkSafe has produced a series of videos, available on the website, covering these topics in an accessible format. These topics have been the subject of presentations at all of the WorkSafe events in the period covered by this report.

7.3 That funding be made available for a specified period to encourage:

- retrofitting ROP;
- upgrading yards and races to assist in the physical separation of workers from large animals;
- lone worker emergency contact systems.

This recommendation was noted as it is not currently resourced.

7.4 The regulator draw to the industry's attention the codes of practice and guidance notes for dealing with some of these well-known hazards.

As part of WorkSafe's Agriculture Communication Strategy, existing codes and guides are regularly promoted through targeted communications, such as agricultural news alerts, social media and at industry events.

## Recommendation 8

That the regulator investigate and action a way to:

- provide timely information to the agricultural industry about the causes of fatalities and serious injuries as well as the preventative actions available to the industry;
- obviate the provision of that information compromising any potential prosecutions or potentially raising other legal issues; and
- ensure that families and others such as PCBUs and work colleagues of the deceased or seriously injured person are provided with advance notice of the publication and are supported.

In June 2023, WorkSafe published the *Agricultural Fatality Report* which provided fatality summary data from 2019 to 2022. Covering fatalities in the sector with the mechanism for incident type information, including fatality occurrence locations by region, and other relevant information. This has in part addressed some of the interest from the sector in gaining an understanding of the causal factors behind the fatalities.


Media releases are used on occasion to inform industry about fatalities, including in 2023, 2024 and 2025..

A publication with a summary of fatalities in farming for the three years up until June 2023 was published. An updated version including fatalities from the 2023–2024 financial year has been published.

# Review

The short to medium responses to the Inquiry's recommendations have been implemented where practicable. Going forward, the safety performance and risk profile of the agricultural sector will be reviewed annually as part of WorkSafe's business planning process.

The Inquiry has highlighted some of the specific challenges in relation to safety in this sector. WorkSafe will regularly review its staffing, stakeholder engagement, education and compliance work to ensure that all tools are used to most effectively influence work health and safety outcomes.



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