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John Phillip BAIRA

Findings and Recommendations

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The Mines Regulation Act 1964

Findings and recommendations of reviewers and mining warden following an inquiry into fatal injuries received by John Phillip Baira at Lead Smelter Isa mines on 22 april 1991 warden's court of Queensland Mount Isa 26 june 1991

Before: Mr F W Windridge esquire Warden

Reviewers:

- MR P BACON
- MR R H MacKENZIE
- MR B MIDLIN
- MR D J SYMONS

To assist:

MR R A SEYMOUR, inspector of mines.

Appearances:

- MR D MOFFATT appearing for next of kin
- MR G MOUSLEY, district workers' representative
- MR G B FILL, solicitor for the crane driver
- MR C NOTHLING, representing the company the registered manager

Witnesses examined: refer transcript and [schedule "a"](#)

Exhibits tendered: refer transcript and [schedule "b"](#)

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

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

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

Schedule "A" Witnesses examined:

- Gary Michael RANDALL

- Howard ROBIN
- Hugh DAWSON
- Stanley Ernest SMITH
- Michael Thomas BRODIE
- Stuart James MacKENZIE
- David John CINDRIC
- William Stanley PENGELLY
- James Boyd THOMSON
- Tom Francis RAINS
- David MENZIES
- Jayantha Lakshman MAHARAGE
- Terrance Ivan CAIN
- Keith Edward RAMUS

Schedule "B" List of Exhibits

No of Exhibit	Nature of Exhibit
1	Coroner's Report
2	Post Mortem Certificate
3	Statement - H Robin
4	Supplementary Statement - H Robin
5	Shift Card Check
6	Daily Check Card
7	Crane Driver's Instruction Manual
8	Statement - H Dawson
9	Statement - S E Smith
10	Statement - M T Brodie
11	Statement S J MacKenzie
12	Statement D J Cindric
13	Statement - W S Pengelly

14	Statement - D Menzies
15	Statement - T F Rains
16	Statement D Menzies
17	Type-Written Copy of Record Book Entry
18	Photographs Marked "A", "B", "C", "D"
19	Statement - J L Maharage
20	Check List
21	Statement - T I Cain
22	Drawing dated February 1991
23	Check Sheet
24	Statement - K E Ramus
25	Plans of Area
26	Photographs (Seventeen)

Schedule "C" Findings:

We find -

Name of deceased: John Phillip Baira
 Date of death: 22 april 1991
 Location of death: Royal Brisbane Hospital

Nature of accident:

John Phillip BAIRA received serious burn injuries when a pot of molten lead fell from a crane at the lead smelter, Isa mine, on 21 april 1991.

Cause of accident:

John Phillip Baira was performing duties as crane chaser in the lead smelter on 21 april 1991.

At approximately 1-30pm Baira was about to connect the auxiliary hook to a pot slung from the main hook of the 25 tonne Malcolm Moore bridge crane in the Isa Lead Smelter dressing aisle. The main hook disengaged from the bottom sheave block and the pot fell to the floor.

It appears that a locking bolt and nut may have failed or unscrewed between the time the overhaul was completed and the date of failure, allowing the main hook to unscrew and fall free.

Evidence from a number of persons involved in the overhaul of the hook assembly indicates the locking bolt was installed. The crane performed adequately under test before being put back into service.

Several searches of the area failed to locate the bolt or any part thereof. Therefore we are unable to determine the actual reason for failure of the locking bolt.

We are satisfied there is no evidence to show operator error by the crane driver.

Cause of death:

Multiple organ failure due to burns.

Schedule "D" Recommendations:

The recommendations of the reviewers are as follows:

We note the upgraded crane daily check card which now provides for inspection of hooks, top bearing and locking pin.

We concur with the recommendations put forward by registered manager Mr Keith Ramus and adopt them accordingly:

Institute immediately shift checks on all hook locking bolts on the three lead smelter aisle cranes. This has already been initiated. This to be done by the crane driver on the crane check card.

Institute immediately scheduled checks on all hook locking bolts on all other cranes across the Mount Isa mine lease.

Lead smelter maintenance to inspect for the presence of correctly fitted locking bolts on all overhauled hook assemblies on receipt from the main workshops and immediately on installation to a crane.

The main workshops prepare a written procedure detailing the steps involved in overhauling hook assemblies and a formalised system of inspection of the work done.

Schedule "E" Report of the Warden:

I concur with the findings of the reviewers as to the nature and cause of the accident.

The inquiry is closed.

Last Updated 21 October 2007

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Great state. Great opportunity.