Man dies in underground coal mine in Central Queensland after being struck in the head

By Julius Dennis

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The fatal incident occurred at the Anglo American Moranbah North mine in Central Queensland. *(Supplied)*

A man has died in an underground coal mine in Central Queensland.

Police were called to an industrial incident at a Moranbah mine, about 200 kilometres south-west of Mackay, at about 10pm yesterday after a 65-year-old man suffered critical head injuries.

The incident occurred at the Moranbah North mine, which is owned by global mining company Anglo American.

The underground long-wall operation produces metallurgical coal.

CFMEU Queensland district president Stephen Smythe said the man was doing "ancillary work" at the mine when he was struck in the head.

He said the man was believed to have been a Mastermyne contractor.

Key points:

- The contracted worker was doing "ancillary work" underground when he was struck in the head
- The incident occurred at the Anglo American Moranbah North mine
- The union representing the mining industry called for "stern action" to improve mine safety

"The details are still a bit sketchy, and that's only due to the fact that it's still under investigation," Mr Smythe said.

"It's a tragic, terrible event again, once again in the mining sector. I'm just lost for words.

"It's just happening all too often now, fatalities and serious accidents in the coal sector."

Union calls for 'stern action' to improve safety

Mr Smythe said the man's fellow miners would need a lot of support as the news of another industry death sunk in.

"It won't be just today or tomorrow, it's going to be the weeks and months ahead," he said.

"The scars are there. They'll be there forever for some people."

Mr Smythe said action was needed to make mines safer for workers.

"It's just becoming all too often, this carnage. It's got to stop," he said.

"Everything that we're doing at the moment, or the industry is doing, is not working — safety resets all that — it's just not working.

"There's got to be some stern action taken and it's got to be real action that workers will believe in, and workers can actually say that their health and safety is paramount."

Moranbah is a coal-mining town about 800km north-west of Brisbane.