Worker dead after accident at Byerwen coal mine in north Queensland

By Julius Dennis   By Emma Hannigan   Workplace Accidents and Incidents

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A man has died in a mine accident in north Queensland.

The 48-year-old was working at the Byerwen surface coal mine near Glenden in the Bowen Basin on Saturday morning.

A Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) statement said "initial reports indicate it involved a pick and carry crane".

Paramedics were called to the mine about 7:30am to assess a man with life threatening injuries.

The mine is about 200 kilometres west of Mackay.

Investigations underway

An investigator from the RSHQ Serious Incident Investigation Unit is at the scene.

The Byerwen Mine is owned by Brisbane-based mining company QCOAL.

The company expressed its shock at the death of what it called "a long-serving, senior and well-loved member of the QCoal team".

A statement said the company was "focused on the support of the family and the affected staff who are obviously devastated by this tragedy".

QCoal said it would not make any further comment while the police investigated the death and until more details were known.

Queensland Resources and Critical Minerals Minister Scott Stuart said: "It is too early to know what happened."

"No death should happen at any workplace and my thoughts are with the man's family, friends and colleagues today," he said.

"There will be a full and thorough investigation into how this happened."

National policy and communications director for the Mining & Energy Union, Jackie Woods, said health and safety inspectors would undertake their own investigation.

"Our industry health and safety representatives are on their way to the site to conduct investigations," she said.

"Our thoughts are with family and workmates as we work to understand what has occurred."