

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

CORONER'S COURT

BRADSHAW, Coroner

No 67 of 2002

IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUEST INTO THE
CAUSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
THE DEATH OF CHRISTOPHER JAMES BELFIELD

ROCKHAMPTON

..DATE 19/02/2003

FINDINGS

WARNING: The publication of information or details likely to lead to the identification of persons in some proceedings is a criminal offence. This is so particularly in relation to the identification of children who are involved in criminal proceedings or proceedings for their protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and complainants in criminal sexual offences, but is not limited to those categories. You may wish to seek legal advice before giving others access to the details of any person named in these proceedings.

19022003 T48/BAO ROK M/T ROK3114 (Bradshaw, Coroner)

CORONER: My formal findings in relation to the matter are: I find that the deceased was Christopher James Belfield and that he died on the 12th of April 2002 at the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance Blackwater coal mine site in the Ergon Energy laydown area approximately 21 miles east of the back access road and approximately 25 miles north of the survey station at 20412519 between ramps 52 and 54.

1

10

I find that on that day Mr Belfield had been operating a vehicle loading crane attached to a Mitsubishi flat tray truck and in the course of that operation of that crane he was crushed between the passenger side controls and the jib of that vehicle loading crane. There were no direct witnesses to see exactly how that occurred and it really is a matter of conjecture as to how that did happen.

20

30

The best guess in relation to the matter is that Mr Belfield may have accidentally or inadvertently pushed one of the control levers in the wrong manner but that, as I have indicated, is probably only a guess as well.

40

I find that there is insufficient evidence for any person to be committed for trial in relation to this matter. I find that the cause of death of Mr Belfield was crush injury to the chest as a result of him coming into contact with the control area of the vehicle loading crane.

50

FINDINGS

19022003 T48/BAO ROK M/T ROK3114 (Bradshaw, Coroner)

They are the recommendations that I make as a rider to this
 particular findings that I have made there in relation to this
 death of Mr Belfield. I propose to now close this inquiry.
 Does anyone have anything they would like to say before the
 inquiry is closed? Nothing further? This inquest is now
 closed then. This Coroner's Court is adjourned. Thank you
 for being here.

1

10

20

30

40

50

FINDINGS

19022003 T48/BAO ROK M/T ROK3114 (Bradshaw, Coroner)

I make this following rider to my findings with a recommendation as follows:

That training and assessment packages for the operation of a vehicle loading crane within the industry should be reviewed to ensure the hazards of operation are identified and addressed.

As part of the review particular reference should be made to the general requirements of the Australian Standards AS2550.1 cranes safe use. Critical aspects to be considered should be:

- (1) The implementation of no-go zones around the operator's control panel where the crane should not be operated or slewed into. The description of these no-go areas including the use of drawings, photographs and videos.
- (2) The importance of watching the crane hook when operating crane.
- (3) The importance of not working under the boom of the crane.
- (4) Daily inspections of the equipment.
- (5) Recording of inspections and any defects found in log book.

I make a further recommendation that manufacturers and importers of the vehicle loading crane be informed of the accident, the findings and recommendations of the Court with a recommendation that engineering design changes be made to provide hard control barriers to the hazards.

I make a further recommendation that manufacturers training manuals to include no-go areas and diagrams that identify both good and unacceptable practices.

I make a further recommendation that the matter be referred to the Australian Standards committee with a recommendation that AS2550.1 and draft Standard AS1418.11 be reviewed to accommodate the changes required to improve safety of vehicle loading cranes.

I make a further recommendation that the matter be referred to the National Mining Industry Training Advisory body to consider modifications to MNC.G1050.a.

FINDINGS

Recommendations

- Training and Assessment packages for the operation of vehicle loading cranes within the industry should be reviewed to ensure the hazards of operation are identified and addressed. As part of the review, particular reference should be made to the General Requirements of the Australian Standard AS 2550.1 Cranes – Safe Use. Critical aspects to be considered should be:
 - The implementation of ‘no-go’ zones around the operator’s control panel where the crane should not be operated or slewed into;
 - The description of these ‘no-go’ areas including the use of drawings, photographs and videos;
 - The importance of watching the crane hook when operating crane;
 - The importance of not working under the boom of the crane;
 - Daily inspections of the equipment;
 - Recording of the inspections and any defects found, in a Log book.
- Manufacturers & Importers of the vehicle loading cranes be informed of the accident, the findings and recommendations of the court with a recommendation that engineering design changes be made to provide hard control barriers to the hazards.
- Manufacturers training manuals to include “NO GO” areas and diagrams that identify both good and unacceptable practices.
- That the matter be referred to the Australian Standards committee with a recommendation that AS 2550.1 and draft standard AS1418.11 be reviewed to accommodate the changes required to improve safety of VLCs.
- That the matter be referred to the National Mining Industry Training Advisory Body to consider modification to MNC. G1050.A

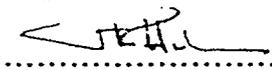
Signed :- **Representative of Department of Natural resources and Mines
Mines Inspectorate**


.....

Representative of BMAlliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd


.....

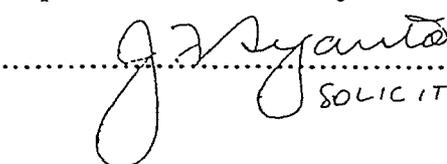
Representative of Ergon Energy Corporation Ltd


.....

Representative of Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union

 ISHR
.....

Representative of Family of Mr Belfield


SOLICITOR.
.....