

## Climate Change Update

The CME Climate Change Reference Group (CCRG) met on 22 January 2010.

The meeting focused on the outcomes from the United Nations Climate Change Conference - what it means for the domestic policy landscape and the implications for industry.

Ms Cheryl Edwardes, Minter Ellison, who attended Copenhagen, also provided a participants perspective on the negotiations.

The Leader of the Federal opposition, the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, has released the coalition's climate change policy. In a joint press statement on 2 February 2010 Mr Abbott said the coalition policy focused on direct-action and financial incentives for families and businesses to secure emissions reductions.

CME will undertake further assessment of the coalition climate change policy in close consultation with members and the Climate Change Reference Group. The policy will be assessed against the extent to which it:

- reduces emissions;
- is aligned with international responses
- represents the lowest cost to the Australian economy
- provides investment certainty for industry.

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## Goldfields Environment Forum

The CME Goldfields Environment Forum met on 3 February 2010 in Kalgoorlie. Members discussed a range of issues, including:

- the review of the Goldfields Residential Areas Sulphur Dioxide Policy

- the Great Western Woodlands Biodiversity and Cultural Conservation Strategy
- the review of the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*.

Ms Amine Fisher, Corporate Environmental Advisor, St Barbara Limited, discussed the Leonora Sustainable Village which was awarded a Golden Gecko certificate of merit in 2009.

The Forum wrapped-up the first meeting for 2010 with a briefing from Mr Wayne Astill, Program Manager Goldfields, Department of Environment and Conservation, on the department's recent enforcement and compliance activities in the region.

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## First Watch #20

CME is pleased to present issue number 20 of First Watch, featuring Rio Tinto's 'Rail Safety Community Awareness Campaign'.

Rio Tinto's rail safety campaign in the Pilbara region was driven by the concerns of the company's train drivers for children playing on and near railway tracks, and road users failing to stop at crossings. The annual initiative comprises of a schools-based program and a community awareness campaign using advertising and media, to coincide with the National Rail Safety Awareness week in July and other rail safety events throughout the year.

First Watch #20 is available for download from the CME website

<http://www.cmewa.com.au/UserDir/CME/Publications/100127-MPR-First%20Watch%2020-v1120.pdf>.

Each bi-monthly publication of First Watch aims to promote and circulate information about positive safety activities and initiatives occurring throughout industry.

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## 2010/2011 Migration Program

CME attended a meeting with Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and officers from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) to receive first-hand knowledge of the Federal Government's program for permanent and temporary migration going forward.

Senator Evans outlined reasons for changes to the permanent migration program and highlighted that Australia's migration program needs to deliver the skills the country requires in an increasingly internationally competitive environment.

The Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) will soon be reviewed. CME will continue to advocate on members' behalf the specific skilled migration needs of the State.



Senator the Hon Chris Evans,  
Senator for Western Australia;  
Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

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## Welcome CME staff member

Christine Scott has joined CME in the role of Executive Assistant to Directors Nicole Roocke and Paul Frewer.

Christine has previously worked in the pharmaceutical investment industry and more recently with Government.

Christine can be contacted via [c.scott@cmewa.com](mailto:c.scott@cmewa.com) or 08 9220 8506.

## Sponsorship of Overseas Workers for the Resources Sector Seminar

CME and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will host a seminar on sponsorship of overseas workers on 22 February 2010, from 10am to 1pm.

The 457 visa program permits employers to sponsor overseas workers to live and work temporarily in Australia. This program has been the subject of integrity reforms that have been progressively rolled out through 2009. The objective of these reforms is to maintain a program that is complementary to the local labour force at times of short-term cyclic skill shortage.

Significant changes came into effect on 14 September 2009. Amongst the range of changes was a requirement that all 457 holders be paid according to a 'market rate'.

Emma Hogen-Esch, Industry Outreach Officer, Resources Sector Consortium and Paul Wright, Labour Agreement Section, National Office from DIAC will present.

Emma Hogen-Esch will provide information about the role of the Industry Outreach Officer and how this position assists employers better understand DIAC programs. A short presentation will follow in which 457 reforms will be clarified with guidance provided on expedition of the application process.

Paul Wright will provide a brief seminar outlining how a project and work agreement might be negotiated to provide more scope and flexibility to the sponsorship of overseas workers.

Your questions and observations are welcome during and after the seminar when light refreshments will be served.

To register your attendance at the seminar please email Jasmin Slingsby at CME via [events@cmewa.com](mailto:events@cmewa.com), or call 08 9220 8509.

## Innovative 'Q Test' Assessment at Pindan College

The announcement made last November by the Hon. Peter Collier, MLC, Minister for Energy; Training and Workforce Development that the State Government would assume responsibility for the Pindan College, Port Hedland (previously known as the Australian Technical College Pilbara), whilst allowing significant autonomy, was welcomed by industry and has enabled the college to proceed with their training service delivery.

CME has met with Pindan College to discuss their achievements in the area of Indigenous employment and education and observe assessment training being undertaken using the Q Test.

The Q Test is a language-free, culture-fair test developed for the assessment of students and employees and who may have language, cultural or educational barriers. The outcome of the assessment indicates a person's overall training potential or 'trainability', generating a result which can then be used to assist organisations in streaming applicants into suitable training and employment pathways.

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*CME Executive officer Mike Prime taking the Q Test at Pindan College, Port Hedland*

## Western Australian School of Mines Graduates' Presentation

On 18 February 2010, two members of the Western Australian School of Mines (WASM) Graduates Association will be presenting at the next WA Mining Club function.

For more information about this event visit the CME website [http://www.cmewa.com.au/News, Events\\_and\\_Media/Events](http://www.cmewa.com.au/News,_Events_and_Media/Events).

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## National Trade Measurement Information Sessions

The Western Australian Trade Measurement Branch will be transferring from the Department of Commerce to the National Measurement Institute on 1 July 2010. The NMI will assume responsibility of administering trade measurement laws nationally from this date.

The NMI will be holding an information session in Perth on 25 February 2010. Information relating to the venue, time and registration can be found at [www.measurement.gov.au](http://www.measurement.gov.au).

## Celebrating our Diversity

Celebrate diversity in your workplace by participating in *A Taste of Harmony* from 15-21 March 2010.

*A Taste of Harmony* is about recognising and celebrating the rich cultural diversity that exists in Australian workplaces. Your company can participate by gathering colleagues together over a lunch made up of foods from different lands. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish that reflects their cultural background or favourite food with a multicultural flavour.

There is no fundraising required and it's free to join. For more information and to register visit [www.tasteofharmony.org.au](http://www.tasteofharmony.org.au).