



Planning &  
Environment  
Resources Regulator

Mine Safety News

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# Underground conveyor equipment incident places workers at serious risk

## Overview

The NSW Resources Regulator will lead a causal investigation into an incident in which seven coal mine workers sustained minor injuries during a conveyor extension in a longwall development panel at Ulan West Operations near Mudgee, NSW.

The purpose of this causal investigation is to enable the quick and full understanding of the causes of this incident, and publication of corresponding lessons to industry in a timely manner to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence.

## Incident details

At 12.36pm on 29 August 2017, seven workers were conducting a planned conveyor belt extension in maingate development panel MG5. This process involved advancing the dynamic move-up unit (DMU) which forms part of a system known as a flexible conveyor train (FCT). This system is used to transfer coal from a continuous miner to the panel mine conveyor. The DMU advancing process includes reducing tension in the panel conveyor belt system from its normal operating set-point, and isolating certain parts of the conveyor drive systems. The DMU is then advanced using hydraulic rams, which causes belt to be pulled from the conveyor storage unit (commonly known as a loop-take up) located at the conveyor drivehead

Regulator's [Causal Investigation Policy](#).

Stakeholders have been invited to participate, including the mine operator, the equipment designer and manufacturer, workers, health and safety representatives and industry and mine safety and health representatives.

The Resources Regulator will publish an Investigation Information Release on the incident within the next 14 days on the department's website.

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**Further contact info:**

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