

Submission to Victorian Parliament Inquiry into extent of Coronavirus due to poor management of hotel quarantine arrangements

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This document has been written at short notice and I apologise for shortcomings that may result from this. I attach my CV that shows that in the past I was a regulator of major hazard activities, mainly in the petroleum and mining industries.

In the problem that has arisen with poor management of hotel quarantine arrangements, there is the Victorian Government Department of Jobs (VDJ) that I assume asked for bids from each security contractor (SC) based on a scope of work.

The main point I wish to make is that -

- VDJ, as manager, had a duty of care to provide and maintain systems of work that are safe and this requires that they should personally check work health safety arrangements, particularly with contractors, by day to day line inspection.
- SC, when bidding for work, should have been required to define their arrangements for day to day training and line inspection to meet their duty of care.
- VDJ and the selected SC are required by law to adhere to and report these arrangements.
- In addition, at a level above this there should be Technical Safety Audits (TSA) managed by VDJ safety management specialists that combine the line management of VDJ, SC and independent competent third parties.

It appears that these arrangements were not properly in place.

My CV refers to my time with Brunei Shell Petroleum 1992-5 when -

- I prepared a corporate safety management system and 4 prototype safety cases - *Pelaut* drilling, 2 production and 1 for combined operations including remedial action plans - for E&P Forum (consortium of upstream petroleum majors) in response to the *Piper Alpha* disaster.
- I was team member for Technical Safety Audit of HPHT drilling preparations and seismic operations and the leader of the audit of the drilling department.

The tradition for line inspection and audit in Shell goes back to the Dutch State Mines (DSM) formed by the Dutch state in 1902 to mine deep and hazardous coal reserves in southern Limburg. Later DSM diversified into commodity chemicals and petrochemicals and the last mine closed in 1973. This was once part of Shell and the tradition of mine line inspection remained part of Shell corporate culture.

I was a coal mining engineer in North Derbyshire in the UK from 1964-9. This included practical work in all underground operations. Later as a coalface supervisor I would inspect and report on ever changing mining conditions. This was line inspection but I would also do physical work with the team, talk to them and provide on-the-job training for men that had difficulties. In 1996-97 I prepared a coalmine safety case for Shell Coal Australia, Queensland.

I attach 5 relevant pages from the *Pelaut* safety case -

- Part 4 Section 12 **Inspection and Audit** (1 Page). This describes site line inspection and TSA by both the Contractor tool pusher and the Shell rig supervisor.
- Specification Sheet 1.8.1 (2 Pages) with Shell tasks including TSA.
- Specification Sheet 1.8.2 (2 Pages) with Contractor tasks

I do not have electronic copies of these documents. Tomorrow I will make photostat copies and submit them to independently to the Inquiry.