

**Submission  
No 66**

## **INQUIRY INTO NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME**

**Organisation:** Alkane Resources Ltd

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**ALKANE**  
RESOURCES LTD  
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14 May 2012

Joint Select Committee on the NSW Worker Compensation Scheme  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee Members

**SUBMISSION TO THE NSW WORKERS COMPENSATION SCHEME (INQUIRY)**

Alkane Resources Ltd, through wholly-owned subsidiaries, is the proponent of the Tomingley Gold Project and the Dubbo Zirconia Project and has maintained a strong presence in the Central West region of NSW for many years.

The Company has a strong commitment to safety in the workplace and to implementing support procedures to facilitate the early return to work of injured workers.

Workers compensation costs for surface mining in NSW are significantly higher than in WA, though are similar for underground mining, and it is the surface mining costs that particularly concern us. Additional costs affect our competitiveness and the viability of our projects and add considerably to already high employment costs.

We support the reform principles outlined in the issues paper, in particular those that:

- Support activities that will improve workplace safety
- Provide proper compensation for long term injured employees
- Promote an early return to work for injured employees
- More closely align compensable injuries to "at work" activities
- Ensure control over ever increasing medical and associated expenses
- Limit compensation to circumstances where employers can exert some control
- Study claim histories ie types of claims and situations in which they occur to enable research for ways to eliminate/reduce such claims
- Improve the administrative effectiveness of the workers compensation system in NSW and
- Improve the competitiveness of the mining industry in NSW.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

A.Wright  
Commercial Manager