

NZ Minerals Forum 2018 Awards finalist: Ravensdown

Cameron Massey - Fri, 04 May 2018

Ravensdown has transformed its workplace health and safety management with time limits on incident and event corrective actions, with each request time-bound and assigned to a specific person to implement.

From the early days of the mining and quarrying health and safety reforms, it was obvious to the company that the Ravensdown Lime Division needed to bring information on how it manages significant and general hazards into one place.

The company's management also realised that the new health and safety legislation was going to require a step change in worker participation.

From the ground up

In 2015 Ravensdown brought in a worker participation scheme in which all sites appointed a Health and Safety representative.

It also restructured its National Health and Safety Committee to include the divisional chairs of the health and safety representatives, senior managers and the chief executive.

Since then, the company's quarry division established a standing forum of site workers, chaired by one of their own, from its seven sites around New Zealand to discuss and share issues and solutions.

The company says the health and safety initiatives have led to a cascading improvement at Ravensdown sites across the country.

The firm says this has resulted in improved staff engagement at levels that were unachievable when management 'ran' health and safety. It says staff buy-in is now happening from the bottom up.

Online tool

Ravensdown acquired an online health and safety management tool to enable its improvements.

The system collates health and safety events, incidents, close calls, hazards and includes a section for catching people doing the right thing, termed 'something good'.

The online tool was rolled out at the end of 2016.

Ravensdown says the system has a simple premise that everything logged will be investigated and, if required, a corrective action will come from the event.

All audit recommendations and improvements are loaded against the site as corrective action requests with the site manager accountable for actioning.

Professional assistance

Midway through last year, with help from MinEx, the Lime division developed a health and safety management system to detail how it safely undertakes the quarry-specific work for Ravensdown.

Using the good-practice guidelines as a starting point, procedures were drawn up for managing hazards such as blasting, ground stability and traffic management that were specific to quarrying in the lime division.

This has shown to Ravensdown the areas where the company needed to improve, and high-performing areas for sharing with the wider Ravensdown operational group.

The Lime health and safety management system has allowed the simplification of a company-wide group of policies and procedures into a much more user-friendly document that the company's quarry site managers can use every day and call on for guidance.

Find out more...

Factfile information

Organisation [Ravensdown](#)