



Victorian Crane Industry Consultative Committee

Minutes of the **Crane Industry Consultative Committee** meeting, held at CFMEU Training Centre, Sabre Drive, Port Melbourne on the **7/2/2014**.

Present

- Dave Waterfield – Australand/VCSA
- Steve Kelly – VWA
- Rob Grauumans – CFMEU
- Joe Miles – CFMEU
- Barry Kearney – CFMEU
- Barry Dunn – VWA
- Rob Oldfield – ESV
- Terry Cameron – Terex
- Danny Toohey – Komp Cranes
- Brent Stacey – VCA
- Les Kreisfeld – VWA
- Geoff Fletcher – Nexus Construction Systems

Apologies

- Mark Drury – VWA
- Andrew Taylor – VWA
- Jim Cairns - GaleSafe
- Andrew Pitt – Sergi Cranes
- Rob McCarthy – Bullivants
- Phil Neville – SpanSet
- Brandon Hitch – CraneSafe

Welcome/Introduction

Rob Grauumans acting as co-chair welcomed all to the first meeting of the year at 0802 after waiting for late and expected attendees.

A short moment was taken to pay respect to a long serving and well respected CICC attendee and former CraneSafe Assessor Mr Geoff Williams, who recently passed away.

Previous Meetings Minutes

Were distributed by email and some copies on hand for perusal, if attendees could bring along a printed copy, that would be helpful.

Les noted from the last minutes - that the request to Minister Rich-Phillips had been dealt with.

Design Checks

Nothing to report

No Go Zones

- In Leopold; a crane made contact with powerlines. The crane was working for the power company. The report has only just been made. Appears to have been accidental movement of the levers.
- There was a vague report of a VLC making contact with powerlines. Eyewitnesses report contact made. No further details.
- Brunswick; a crane lifting a column allegedly hit powerlines. Crane was packed up and left site. Denial of contact by site persons. Allegedly caused power outage.

WorkSafe

An internal restructure continues with more rounds of redundancies being made. It's a fair point to make that there appears to be a great deal of uncertainty within the workforce at VWA.

A new Executive Director of Health and Safety has been appointed in Len Neist.

It was noted that a Victorian mobile crane company had been contacted by Price Waterhouse Coopers to take a survey on Plant Registration and General Inductions.

It was noted that that the topic of Plant Registration is currently being looked at.

The OHS Regulations are currently being re-written.

A question was asked from the floor with regards to VLC's. They are getting bigger and their use has exploded, especially across the domestic construction market. What is the requirement for VLC's to erect steel? WorkSafe noted that they have a document available on the website regarding this topic. It was noted that a basic rigger is a formal requirement for steel erection under the HRW Licencing system.

It was asked if a crane operator can be both the crane operator and the rigger – Response was that it is not possible, as both roles require a prescribed HRW Licence.

Some discussion on remote controls for cranes took place. WorkSafe noted that they don't have a formal position, but inspectors would be very interested in looking closely at why a crane fitted with a cabin was not being used as such.

VicRoads

With the upcoming introduction of the new NHVR going to occur on the following Monday 10th of February, it was noted that the NHVR had been offered an invitation to attend today's meeting. They declined.

It was noted that one Victorian crane company, the VCA and CraneSafe had all participated in trials of the new permit system, including the use of the Journey Planner tool. There had been no response back to 'ghost' permits that were applied for as part of the trial.

Brandon Hitch and Brent Stacey met with NHVR on the 5th of February to discuss their readiness for next weeks 'Go Live' start date. Both felt the NHVR lacked a thorough understanding of how much the new national law will impact upon the Crane and Heavy Haulage industries.

When the NHVR was asked about the 'Pre-Approved Routes', which is the cornerstone for successful implementation of this new law, the NHVR response was seriously underwhelming.

It was noted that VicRoads, in particular Jill, Carmine and their teams had been bending over backwards to assist the NHVR prepare for the Victorian permits. Their hard work should be noted.

The biggest issue for crane companies will be the turnaround time for permits to be approved. Industry has made it clear that 28 days is not acceptable and will completely shut our industry down. The NHVR continues to state that they are only about to enforce the new law. When asked if there were any plans for leniency or some kind of grace period, the NHVR strongly noted that there was no ability within the law to act in this manner.

It's a fair point to make that no matter how hard a number of industry persons have tried to make a difference on this, including offers of supplying crane experienced personal to work directly for them to assist with crane specific issues, there is an extreme lack of confidence that the NHVR will be able to function in a manner that industry needs. The biggest hurdle will be the requirement that local governments approve travel before a permit will be issued.

Man-box

It was noted that a response had come back on the letter sent on 30 September 2013 from the Minister of WorkSafe on the manbox topic in mid January. Please see attached.

Some discussion took place of the inappropriate use of a manbox as part of 'The Biggest Loser' TV show. No harnesses were seen to be used.

It was also noted that a job in Victoria Street was using a crane that WorkSafe deemed to be non-compliant with their Alert.

CraneSafe/CICA

No report made. Brandon Hitch noted as an apology.

VCSA

- The VCSA had drafted a letter of concern to VWA and invited themselves to a meeting to discuss.
- CFMEU report on the clothing policy of some builders of Long/Longs was discussed.
- Heat stress was discussed. There should be access to cool, clean drinking water. Appropriate clothing, shade, moving work areas also noted as control measures.
- Traffic Management – Campaign for physical protection rather than paramesh discussed. A recent accident in Dandenong highlights this topic.
- Excavators and Asbestos anomalies were discussed.
- Construction Waste is being transported long distances to Qld as there is significant cost savings in disposal.

- Suicide prevention. A Qld scheme called 'mates in construction' is coming through to Incolink
- It was noted that one VCSA member has started using coloured hard hats to identify apprentices.
- Some discussion took place regarding an incident with a Haulotte Optima 8 scissor lift – the counterweights fell off.

Incidents

- Some discussion took place on concerns over construction materials falling from CBD building sites.
- Some concerns over a number of incidents on Regional rail project. A minibus was damaged by a slewing crane. An excavator rolled over. A manual extension on a VLC crane shot back in under load. A light tower ran into powerlines. Excessive hours noted as a possible concern.
- Reports of recent hot weather causing a number of heat stress concerns.
- A person was catapulted from a EWP causing serious injury.

General Business

- Noted that there have been some changes to AS 1657 (Fixed platforms, walkways, stairways and ladders—Design, construction and Installation)
- WorkSafe presented remote control technology presentation on forklift seatbelts.
- The helmet stunt ride will not be occurring at this year's Grand Prix.
- Traineeships – CICA has engaged the AiGroup and will shortly ready to commence. Noted that the agreed rates of pay were a percentage of the award rather than EBA rates.
- It was noted that there continues to be a great deal of excavators working as a mobile crane, in increasing capacities.
- It was raised that mobile crane companies have obligations regarding manual handling issues under the OHS Regs.
- The CFMEU has recently purchased a LTM 1055-3.1 factory reconditioned mobile crane for use at their Port Melbourne training centre. The crane has arrived in Melbourne and is now in the paintshop.
- Noted that the Draft copy of AS 3850 is currently out for public comment and invitation made to all attendees and readers of the minutes to make relevant comments.
- Pick and Carry HRW Licencing issues and competency was discussed.

The meeting was closed at 0954.

Next Meeting to be held **4th of April, 2014**, at CFMEU Training Facility, located at **41 Sabre Drive, Port Melbourne**, commencing **0800** sharp.