

WHS REPORT: April - May 2026

Reported Incidents:

Nil reported.

Reported Hazards:

Nil reported although multiple identified by WHS.

RACECOURSE



Racecourse. Horizontal steel frame at head height.



Risk removed.

VIEWING MOUND AT RACECOURSE

The grass mound designed for viewing events centrally located within the grounds may appear to be safe. However, the wall which has been built at one end has created a fall hazard for patrons. This wall is approximately 1.5 meters high, which if someone tripped and fell, could cause serious injury or worse. An extra risk has been created due to the placement of a horizontal bar. This wall needs removal as temporary fencing to minimise the risk of a fall is not practical. This issue has been discussed with the Director of Works for a potential permanent fix.



Horizontal Bar creating extra risk.

WORKSHOP

The maintenance pit within the workshop is an open space allowing for a vehicle or person to fall in, causing serious injury when no vehicle is being serviced.

Specifically designed pit covers have been purchased to minimise this risk.



SCARE GUN

A new scare gun has been purchased to use for scaring birds away during drives of the runway prior to aircraft departure / arrivals and is simply placed in the rear of a Ute for this purpose in lieu of a shotgun which is currently being used.



Council does not currently own its own firearms and staff have been borrowing residents' shotguns to perform this task. Whilst this is legal if the staff member holds the appropriate weapons category on their license, this is not best practice. Further, when Boulia township has issues with native birds, the use of a shotgun within the town may cause alarm to tourists which is an offence under the Weapons Act QLD, and the Criminal Code. The Safety Coordinator is currently exploring options relating to the use of Firearms for Council Activities.

POLICIES

The Boulia Shire Councils DAMP (Drug and Alcohol Management Plan) for Airport operations has been re-written with updated legislation and terminology and submitted for the upcoming Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) audit.

CHEMICAL AUDIT

A whole of Council Chemical audit has been completed over the past month with multiple issues identified. Unknown chemicals in unmarked containers, labels which

can no longer be read identifying the product and Safety Data Sheets out of date by many years. One was found to have been last updated in 2017 as an example.

A disposal method for unknown chemicals will be identified with training conducted with those who handle chemicals such as Stores / Cleaners / Parks and Gardens to explain the potential dangers in handling chemicals in unmarked containers.

This audit also included a clean-out of the chemical storage shed in the depot which had previously been unsafely managed.



Chemical Shed after reorganization.

Now the chemicals in the workplace have been identified, chemical registers can be updated, with new Safety Data Sheets (SDS) sourced and placed in the appropriate areas as per legislative requirements.

WORKPLACE PRACTICES

A significant improvement in wearing of PPE has been achieved with minor non-compliances (baseball caps being worn although staff have been advised they are not to be worn) observed.

Some unsafe practices are still being identified, however with direct interaction and communication with WHS, improvements are being achieved.

Continual on-site inspections of work sites are being conducted with inspections of paperwork to ensure compliance. Again, issues are being identified, however improvements to workplace practices are being observed.

CAMPDRAFT EVENT

Prior to the Campdraft, WHS worked closely with the contracted Electrician to identify primary and resolve dangerous electrical issues with facilities that would be used during the event such as power bollards.

Face to face meeting held on-site with the organizers of the event to identify and highlight safety risks within the grounds (the mound as an example) prior to the event taking place. Raised issues such as electrical cables running across pathways where vehicular traffic traversed were still observed during the event.

Post event identified issues are to be reviewed and discussed for consideration for the next major event.

CONCLUSION

There has been a dramatic improvement around compliance with paperwork, PPE and overall safety in general. Staff are now communicating openly and positively with WHS.

Improvements are yet to be made although this is to be expected.