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Chamber drives new rules for interstate workers

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The WA mining industry is forging plans for new “travel protocols” for interstate fly-in, fly-out workers in partnership with the State Government.

Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA boss Paul Everingham said miners have been in discussions with WA’s health and transport departments to create new arrangements for

interstate FIFO workers, many of who have been stuck on worksites since early March.

“We’ve been working with the Health Department now around some travel protocols,” the chief executive told The West Live yesterday.

“We know the State’s got the interests of Western Australia at heart and we want to work with them. We’ve been working in partnership with the State Government for some time now

around certainty — particularly for interstate FIFO workers.”

Mr Everingham said many workers have been away from home for a long time and have had to live in strenuous circumstances.

“They’ve had to live in more strenuous circumstances and they’re the ones we need to be congratulating and thanking,” he said.

“We do think that there will need to be a pathway, particular-

ly for some people who have been away from home now for nine to 12 months.

“We’re working collaboratively behind the scenes with the Health Department and the Transport Department and others around making that happen.”

Mr Everingham said the sector appreciated the State and Federal Government’s responses to the crisis, adding that

safety was always the priority.