



News Release

Attention: News Editors
Release Time: Immediate
Date: 18 July 2008

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Illawarra Coal helps mining students get their hands dirty

Illawarra Coal is helping university students get hands-on experience in the mining industry through its sponsorship of the 2008 Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) National Mining Games, being held today and tomorrow in Wollongong.

The Games, which will take place at the Southern Mines Rescue Station, Woonona, are designed to help students considering a career in mining to further their understanding and gain practical training in the field.

Twenty teams of students from universities throughout NSW and across Australia including the University of Wollongong, will compete in a series of events, which test key skills and techniques required in the mining industry, including the construction of a conveyor system and the identification of various underground hazards.

Illawarra Coal General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said that the AusIMM National Mining Games were an opportunity for young people to explore the many facets of a career in mining.

"Illawarra Coal is proud to help make the Mining Games accessible to local students and showcase to students Australia-wide, the broad range of opportunities within the industry," he said.

"Mining has a proud history in the region, and Illawarra Coal is delighted to be a part of an event such as this which focuses very much on the future.

"The Games not only offer students the opportunity to experience mining conditions and build on industry-related techniques, but also provide a chance for participants to enhance other attributes which are valued at Illawarra Coal, such as team work, leadership skills, and a commitment to health and safety.

Winners of the National Mining Games will be announced at the Illawarra Coal Black Tie Ball on Saturday night at the City Beach Function Centre. Over 230 people will attend the Illawarra Coal-sponsored ball, which will provide mining undergraduates from across Australia the opportunity to network with representatives from a range of mining industry companies.

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