

Illawarra Coal



Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd
BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal Administration Centre
Old Port Road Port Kembla
New South Wales 2505 Australia
PO Box 514 Unanderra
New South Wales 2526 Australia
Tel: +61 2 4255 3200 Fax: +61 2 4255 3201
bhpbilliton.com

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Illawarra Coal highlights rail safety to local schools

Illawarra Coal is helping to reinforce the important message of rail safety awareness by coordinating a series of presentations to local school students on the dangers of trespassing on railway tracks.

In a joint initiative with RailCorp, CityRail's Youth Safety Outreach Program coordinator, Jonathan Beninca, who survived being run over by a train when he was 19, will visit schools near to the operations of Illawarra Coal's Dendrobium Mine to speak about rail safety.

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said he hoped the presentations would help reinforce to local young people the dangers of risky behaviour around railway lines.

"Illawarra Coal transports coal from Dendrobium Mine along a rail line from Mt Kembla to Port Kembla which operates close to the suburbs of Mt Kembla, Cordeaux Heights, Figtree and Unanderra, so rail safety awareness is a key issue for our business," John said.

"Illawarra Coal has an overriding commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the communities surrounding our operations and with the help of Jonathan, we are hoping to avoid the repeat of previous incidents where people have been seen walking, playing and even riding bicycles along the rail track or within the rail corridor, as well as attempting to ride coal wagons.

"We hope that Jonathan's story will encourage local students to discuss with their friends and family, the dangers associated with railway tracks and that the students will come to understand that any unauthorised activity on a railway line can result in serious injury or worse."

Jonathan will visit Year 5 and 6 students at Illawarra Christian School (Cordeaux Campus) on Friday. He will also be giving presentations at Figtree Public School, Unanderra Public School, St Pius X School, Mt Kembla Public School and Figtree High School throughout June.

Media enquiries:

Lauren Kinloch

Communications Officer, Illawarra Coal

02 4255 3534

Lauren.Kinloch@BHPBilliton.com

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd
ABN 69 093 857 286

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ABN 49 004 028 077
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