

# News Release



Attention News Editors  
For immediate release  
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## Illawarra Coal responds to critics

Illawarra Coal has spoken out against those involved in protests against the coal industry today, and has encouraged people to understand the important role coal plays in the region.

The company, which directly employs close to 1200 people and provides a further flow-on effect of five jobs for each one of those people, produces premium quality coking coal for steelmaking.

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said that media stunts and protests do nothing to support the coal industry which is working to address the serious issue of climate change.

“We at Illawarra Coal are striving to achieve a balance between providing the important raw material for steelmaking which is vital to our every day lives, and minimising our environmental footprint,” he said.

“We are leaders in the field of greenhouse gas abatement technology, with our world-first WestVAMP facility already achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of close to 200,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas equivalent since its commissioning in July last year.

“This, when combined with our previous and ongoing initiatives, totals a reduction of 2.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year – making Illawarra Coal one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas reduction in NSW.”

Further to this Mr Brannon pointed out that the Company is also one of the first to install a water filtration plant at its Appin mine, an initiative which has resulted in a saving of up to 2 megalitres of water each day, and has won for the company the 2007 Sydney Water Biggest Saver Award.

“In considering the debate regarding the coal industry, I would encourage everyone to understand the contribution that our industry makes to the region, and the contribution it is making towards a sustainable future,” Mr Brannon said.

“We don’t consider protests to be a productive approach to addressing the serious issue of climate change.”

The economic contribution of Illawarra Coal accounts for about 4.4 per cent of the Gross Regional Product in the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions. In detail that represents, including flow-on effects about 6000 jobs, \$520 million in Gross Regional Product and \$278 million in household income.

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