

Illawarra Coal

# News Release

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## Illawarra Coal welcomes new apprentices

Illawarra Coal has continued its commitment to employing local people from the regions surrounding its operations, welcoming 13 new apprentices to the Company.

Each Illawarra Coal mine site (Appin, West Cliff and Dendrobium) has welcomed to the team two electrical and two mechanical apprentices, while the West Cliff Coal Preparation Plant will also host an electrical apprentice.

The young adults, aged from 16 to 23, are all locals from the Wollondilly, Illawarra and Southern Highlands regions.

Illawarra Coal General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said the Company was pleased to be able to continue to offer local youth opportunities to pursue a career in the minerals industry, including its Summer Vacation program that 15 university students recently completed, and the employment of 13 new graduates in a wide range of disciplines.

"Youth unemployment is one of the key issues for both the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions, and Illawarra Coal is proud to provide education and training for young people from the communities in which we operate to help them secure future employment," John said.

"Illawarra Coal has been operating in the Southern Coalfields for close to 80 years and continues to be a major employer in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions, providing direct employment benefits for 1000 people and their families, and flow-on employment benefits for almost another 5000 people.

"Our apprenticeship scheme, along with our Vacation Student and Graduate Programs allow Illawarra Coal to further this commitment to local employment by offering young people extensive training opportunities to become part of the future of the mining industry, and in turn, further strengthen the skills base in the local regions."

The apprenticeships offered by Illawarra Coal in partnership with Illawarra Group Training, are completed over a period of four years. The apprentices will spend the first six months at the University of Ballarat's Steelhaven Skills Centre, located at the Port Kembla Steelworks. Here they will complete an intensive development program including an accelerated TAFE course, prior to their placement onsite. While being trained onsite, the apprentices also continue their learning at TAFE, and also have the opportunity to pursue further post-trade studies in the final 18 months of their apprenticeship.

### Media enquiries:

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