

# News Release

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## **Illawarra Coal's WestVAMP receives BHP Billiton Environment award**

Illawarra Coal's world-first WestVAMP power plant has received the 2008 BHP Billiton Excellence Award in the Environment category in the Company's annual Health, Safety, Environment, and Community Awards.

The Awards recognise BHP Billiton employees from around the globe, who openly embody the Company's values and go beyond what is required in their day-to-day job to care for the health and safety of fellow employees, the environment and the community.

WestVAMP was one of eight projects nominated in the Environment category, and was awarded the accolade over other finalists located in Australia, Mozambique, Canada, Columbia and South Africa.

Illawarra Coal's Project Manager, Patrick Booth accepted the Award on behalf of the project team, which also included \$10,000 to be donated to a charity of the team's choice.

WestVAMP uses the extremely dilute methane in the ventilation air from West Cliff mine to generate electricity, in partnership with international emissions control specialist MEGTEC Systems AB and their VOCSIDIZER © technology.

Illawarra Coal General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said the award was recognition of the Company's continuing efforts to operate the business in an environmentally responsible manner.

"WestVAMP is a key investment for Illawarra Coal in our quest to reduce our environmental footprint, so to have this achievement acknowledged by our parent company, BHP Billiton is incredibly rewarding for everyone involved in developing the technology and ensuring its effective operation," John said.

"Our WestVAMP power plant is currently the world's only proven and commercially viable technology to abate methane emissions from mine ventilation air, and has already resulted in the abatement of more than 250,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent and the export of more than 30 gigawatt hours of electricity to the West Cliff mine."

The Award, which was announced at the BHP Billiton HSEC Awards Presentation Dinner in Brisbane last night, is the latest in a string of accolades for WestVAMP, following the US EPA presenting its Climate Protection Award to Illawarra Coal's Technology Provider MEGTEC Systems AB, in recognition of the firm's world-first technology in action at WestVAMP, and the plant winning the Australian Institute of Energy's Excellence in Energy Award 2007.

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