Illawarra Coal

News Release

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New longwall equipment for Illawarra Coal

With mining of the second longwall panel of Area 7 of Illawarra Coal's Appin Mine complete, the Company is pleased to confirm investment in new longwall equipment for the Mine.

The Company has invested A$22.8 million in additional technology at the Mine to help achieve continued production during longwall change periods, furthering the company's commitment as it prepares the environmental assessment for its Part 3A Bulli Seam application.

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said the new equipment will decrease production down-time between longwall panels, allowing the Mine to focus on achieving continuous longwall production, and ensure continued employment and supply of premium quality coking coal to local and overseas customers.

"The Company's financial commitment to the region is an endorsement of our sustainable approach to mining and this is reinforced with our plan for the future as we prepare our Part 3A environmental assessment which addresses the next 30 years of our mining in the region," he said.

Mr Brannon added that Illawarra Coal's detailed assessment and monitoring programs form the foundation of the Company's approach to mining in the region for the long term, providing employment and generating wealth for the local communities in which we operate.

"Illawarra Coal undertakes thorough assessment, monitoring and rehabilitation programs in order to develop management plans that ensure subsidence impacts from its operations are minimised," he said.

"This approach gives us the confidence to look to the future in the region because we know we can achieve the balance.

"With our Part 3A application for the future which takes these things into account, and offers employment for more than 1000 people and their families, Illawarra Coal is proud of its contribution."

The Company's mine plan for its Appin Area 7 operations was designed in a way to minimise impacts on the surrounding natural and man-made features, including the decision to move the longwalls away from the river, sterilising some 12 million tonnes of coal – the equivalent of approximately four years of production.

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