



News Release

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Attention News Editors
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Record Breaking Longwall for West Cliff Mine

Illawarra Coal's West Cliff Mine is nearing completion of its Longwall 32 which has proven to be the most productive longwall block in the mine's history, producing more than 4 million tonnes of raw coal.

Extraction of the longwall commenced in February 2007, with the valuable coal processed at West Cliff Coal Preparation Plant and shipped to local and international customers.

General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs John Brannon said the productive longwall has seen new daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly production records set.

"This record breaking performance is the result of a combination of substantial investment in mining infrastructure and the excellent performance of our West Cliff team," he said.

"Careful planning and management of the extraction process has ensured that any impacts to natural and man-made surface features have been within predictions and limits approved by the NSW Government.

"In order to reduce potential impacts to the Georges River, we changed our mine-plan to position the longwall away from the River, and as a result the only impacts observed to date have been minor gas releases with no loss of water flow and no significant change in water quality."

Mr Brannon added that the record-breaking longwall performance had capped off a successful period for the mine including the commissioning of WestVAMP – the company's world-first methane emission reduction project.

"WestVAMP, combined with our other methane reduction and power generation technologies, is making an enormous contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, generating more than 515 GWH of power and abating up to 2.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year," he said.

"We are proud of the results achieved and that the mine-plan has been successfully implemented ensuring reduced environmental impacts."

Extraction of this longwall has also supported the ongoing employment of 400 people at the Mine over this period, including additional jobs required to process and transport coal. Analysis by Illawarra Regional Information Service (Nov 2005) showed that almost five jobs are created in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions for every one position within Illawarra Coal.

Illawarra Coal Holdings Pty Ltd
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The record breaking performance of Longwall 32 further consolidates the Company's contribution of three cents per saleable tonne to its Community Partnerships Program which since its inception in 2004 has provided more than \$400,000 in funds to a range of community programs in the regions in which West Cliff and Appin Mines operate.

West Cliff's next longwall which is scheduled to commence in July 2008 has been subject to the same rigorous planning process, and will continue to provide ongoing employment and economic benefits to the regions in which it operates.

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