



Minister commends industry on health and safety record

Sydney (Australia), 27 April 2016

NSW Government Minister for Industry, Energy and Resources, Anthony Roberts, has reflected on the significant health and safety efforts of the state's coal mining industry, ahead of the International Day of Mourning tomorrow.

Held on April 28, the International Day of Mourning commemorates workers who have died as a result of a workplace incident or occupational disease. Minister Roberts praised the NSW coal industry for its dedication to workplace health and safety.

'In NSW, government, industry and workers are committed to ensuring our mining workplaces are as safe as possible,' Mr Roberts said.

'We all want to ensure our miners who go to work every day for the benefit of their communities and the state, are able to return home at the end of the day to their families.'

'I commend the NSW coal industry and its workers for their unwavering commitment to the health and safety of their workers and the prevention of black lung and other occupational disease.'

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Stephen Galilee, agreed. 'Health and safety is the number one priority for mining, and the industry is continually committed to ensuring worldwide best practice is present within NSW coal mines,' he said.

Results such as these do not happen by chance. Coal Services' Managing Director/CEO, Lucy Flemming said collaboration was the NSW coal mining industry's key to achieving health and safety success.

'Our unique collaborative model includes all stakeholder groups, including workers, employers, community and government,' Ms Flemming said.

'There have been no new confirmed cases of black lung disease amongst current NSW coal mine workers for decades,' she said. The Coal Services model for dust disease prevention is based upon four key deliverables; prevention, detection, enforcement and education and is underpinned by a robust regulatory regime.

'We are not complacent as an industry when it comes to health and safety, and this in turn is repaid with safe and healthy workplaces. Impressively, our workers compensation insurance

Corporate Office

T: +61 (2) 8270 3200
F: +61 (2) 9262 6090
Level 21, 44 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 3842
Sydney NSW 2001

Lithgow

T: +61 (2) 6350 1050
F: +61 (2) 6351 2407
3 Proto Avenue
Lithgow NSW 2790
PO Box 72
Lithgow NSW 2790

Mudgee

T: +61 (2) 6370 6100
F: +61 (2) 6372 2470
18 Sydney Road
Mudgee NSW 2850
PO Box 1156
Mudgee NSW 2850

Newcastle

T: +61 (2) 4948 3100
F: +61 (2) 4953 0541
143 Main Road
Speers Point NSW 2284
PO Box 219
Boolaroo NSW 2284

Singleton

T: +61 (2) 6571 9900
F: +61 (2) 6572 2667
1 Civic Avenue
Singleton NSW 2330
PO Box 317
Singleton NSW 2330

Woonona

T: +61 (2) 4286 5400
F: +61 (2) 4285 4144
558-580 Princes Highway
Woonona NSW 2517
PO Box 42
Corrimal NSW 2518

claim frequency rate now sits at its lowest level in history at less than six per cent.’

From 30 June 2016, a comprehensive range of reforms are being made to the NSW coal industry workers compensation scheme’s premium system. The changes are aimed at ensuring the system is fair, equitable and responsive to its insured employers’ injury prevention and return to work experience.

The new Coal Services Skills Incentive Scheme is also set to deliver positive outcomes for the industry. Under the scheme, employers are offered financial incentives where they employ apprentices and are rewarded for contributing to injury prevention and mine safety.

General President of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), Tony Maher, said it was heartening to see Coal Services’ dedication to continuously improving its support and services.

‘The CFMEU understands the necessity for Coal Services to maintain a financially viable and sustainable workers compensation scheme,’ Mr Maher said.

‘These reforms will help contribute to injury prevention and promote activities that facilitate return to work following injury. Most importantly, they allow Coal Services to continue providing the best possible support to workers and the industry.’

- ENDS

For more information please contact:

Belinda Ward—Marketing Manager Coal Services
Mobile: 0419 148 135
belinda.ward@coalservices.com.au

About Coal Services:

Coal Services is an industry-owned organisation committed to providing critical services and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry.

We operate a Specialised Health and Safety Scheme that provides an integrated suite of services aimed at preventing injury and illness in the workplace. These services help employers to identify, assess, monitor and control many risks inherent in the NSW coal mining industry.

Our preventative and responsive services in the areas of occupational health and safety, workers compensation, mines rescue and training help to deliver on our purpose ‘to protect’.

We are jointly owned by two shareholders, the NSW Minerals Council and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). Our purpose, vision and values are aligned to focus on the safety and health of our industry and its workers.

Please visit: www.coalservices.com.au