

## Appin Pink to take on the world at international rescue comp

Wollongong (Australia), 16 August 2022 –

A mine rescue team from South32's Appin Mine in the Macarthur region of New South Wales will take on the world's best when they represent Australia at the International Mines Rescue Competition to be held in the United States next month.

Around 30 teams are expected to compete at the event that will test the emergency preparedness capabilities, teamwork and communication skills of mines rescue brigade members. There are 21 member countries of the International Mines Rescue Body who are eligible to enter. Australia will also be represented by teams from Queensland.

South32's team – called *Appin Pink* - won the Australian mines rescue competition in October 2018, securing the right to represent Australia on the international stage. The biennial event was scheduled to be held in 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID pandemic.

The team will depart on 7 September ahead of the week-long competition that will take place in Beaver, West Virginia from 11 September 2022.

Teams must compete in at least five events that are designed to assess their theoretical knowledge, fire-fighting and first aid skills as well as how they respond to simulated mine emergencies.

Travelling with the team will be Jason Hegarty, Training Coordinator from NSW Mines Rescue (Mines Rescue). Mines Rescue has played an instrumental role in preparing the team for this event.

"The events at the international competition are similar to the challenges the team faces at our district and Australian competitions – it's what they train for. In NSW, brigade members must attend six rounds of training each year to maintain their active status. The team have also attended additional training sessions that focus on mines rescue techniques and high angle rope rescue, which will also be part of the international event," explained Mr Hegarty.

Wayne Green, General Manager Mines Rescue, commended the team on their commitment and dedication and wished them well at the event.

"Appin Pink are an exceptional team having won numerous mines rescue titles over the years. This takes considerable time and commitment from the brigade members themselves and the

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mine in order to maintain competency in rescue techniques and other specialised tasks. Fortunately, real incidents requiring these skills to be used are few and far between given our industry's safety focused culture," he said.

"The international mines rescue competition is a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge and learn from teams from all over the world. We wish them all the best," he concluded.

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal Vice President Peter Baker said he was very proud of the Appin Pink Team.

"The Appin Pink team exemplifies South32's commitment to safety. Their skill and expertise is first class and we wish them well as they make final preparations to represent Australia on the world stage."



*Appin Pink*

*Back L-R: Daniel Ward (captain), John Nellestein (vice captain), Trent Jelley, Graham Billett  
Front L-R: Tony Grossman, Phillip Kelly, Bobby Engel*

**- ENDS**

#### **About the 12<sup>th</sup> International Mines Rescue competition**

- The International Mines Competition is a biennial event (held every two years).
- There are 21 member countries of the International Mines Rescue Body.
- The event is usually staged over a week. As well as the 3-day competition, there are many social and cultural events for the teams to enjoy.
- Australia hosted the competition in 2010, at the Southern Mines Rescue station in Woonona.

#### **Facts about NSW mine rescue brigades**

- Minimum 5% industry dedicated to emergency response (1 in 20 underground workers)
- Initial 10-day induction training required for all new recruits
- Brigade enrolment is voluntary
- Six training days required per year for all brigade members

- A large percentage of brigade members progress into more senior mining roles

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## **About Coal Services:**

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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 Mining and Energy Union (MEU). Our purpose, vision and values are aligned to focus on the safety and health of our industry and its workers.

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