

Airly to represent Western district at Australian Mines Rescue competition

Mudgee (Australia), 22 August 2022 –

Ten teams from mine sites across the Western coal mining regions came together to compete at the annual Western Mines Rescue competition on Friday, 19 August. It was the first time the district event has been held since 2019 due to COVID restrictions.

Centennial Coal's Airly team were named overall winners of the underground competition; the first time that a team from the mine has won the competition; while the team from Clarence were runners up.

Glencore's Ulan Surface Operations emergency response team were named winners of the open cut competition.

The teams worked through a series of scenarios to test their emergency preparedness capabilities, teamwork and communication skills in a high-pressure environment. The events were designed to simulate situations teams would most likely face should they be called to respond to a real-life incident.

All teams were assessed on their knowledge of theory, while practical exercises included a mass casualty first aid event and fire-fighting. Underground exercises for mines rescue brigades included search and rescue, monitoring mine conditions and managing hazards. Exercises for open cut teams involved responding to a road crash, performing a vertical rescue and confined space rescue.

Airly team captain, Ben Kelly, thanked Western Mines Rescue and Centennial Coal for their support.

"Thank you to the organisers of the 2022 Western Mines Rescue competition," Ben said. "The effort you put into putting on this competition is outstanding. We've got seven brigade members at our mine and six of them competed today. For a little mine like Airly to come away with a result like this is pretty special.

"Five of the Airly team are statutory officials, undermanagers as well, so we usually work different shifts at the mine. Several team members gave up their Sunday afternoon last week

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just to get out and train together as a team. I couldn't be prouder of every single one of them and their efforts today.

"On a personal note, I've been lucky enough to be involved in Mines Rescue for over 30 years. I can remember being four years old and going to the rescue station to watch my Dad [former Western Mines Rescue Regional Manager, Brian Kelly] compete. So, for me to be up here today and be a captain of a winning team, something he also did, is something I'm very proud of."

Mark D'Elboux, Regional Manager Western Mines Rescue, explained that the primary purpose of Mines Rescue is to provide emergency response to the NSW coal mining industry in the case of an emergency.

"Fortunately, major incidents requiring brigade response are limited but events like these allow brigade members to practice and hone a range of skills that can be used at work as well as in the community."

Mr D'Elboux also thanked Glencore for partnering with Western Mines Rescue in hosting parts of the competition at their Ulan mine.

"Organising these events takes a great deal of preparation and collaboration. From creating the assessment tasks, to sourcing assessors and volunteers to act as casualties and ensuring everything goes smoothly is a huge job and I would like to thank everyone from our team and from across the industry who contributed to the day's success. Being able to use Glencore's Ulan mine facilities enabled us to take the competition to another level," he said.

Airly will represent the Western district at the Australian competition to be held in Wollongong later this year.

Mines Rescue brigade members across the district, not just those competing, were also recognised for their dedication and commitment at the presentation dinner.



Airly

Back L-R: Alex Byrne, Dane Batty, Cody Café

Front L-R: Elias Dukes, Ben Kelly (Captain), Evan Mills



Ulan Surface Operations

Back L-R: Raice Byrne, Paul Mullette, Stuart Marr

Front L-R: Colby Leech (Captain), Scott Bourke, Greg Reynolds

Mines competing at the 2022 Western Mines Rescue competition

Underground teams

Centennial Coal

- Airly
- Clarence
- Springvale

Glencore

- Ulan 3
- Ulan West

Whitehaven

- Narrabri

Yancoal

- Moolarben

Open Cut teams

Peabody

- Wilpinjong

Glencore

- Ulan Surface Operations

Yancoal

- Moolarben Open Cut

Facts about mine rescue brigade members

- 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:

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. Our purpose, vision and values are aligned to focus on the safety and health of our industry and its workers.

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