



Joint Media Release

Moranbah North named national champions at 60th Australian Underground Mines Rescue Competition

Newcastle (Australia), 24 October 2024 –

Queensland's Moranbah North mines rescue team has been named overall winner of the 2024 Australian Underground Mines Rescue competition held at Chain Valley Colliery near Newcastle on Thursday, 24 October 2024.

The annual event brings together the top mines rescue teams to demonstrate their expertise and commitment to safety in the mining industry. Four teams from NSW, each having won their respective regional competitions, and four teams from Qld mining teams (also decided by a series of competitions), competed for the 2024 title.

The MG³ Appin team (Southern Mines Rescue, NSW) was runner-up, followed by Centennial Coal's Springvale team (Western Mines Rescue, NSW) which took out third place.

Now in its 60th year, the competition features a series of challenging scenarios that replicate real-life emergencies faced in mining operations in both underground and surface environments.

Teams were assessed on their technical skills, teamwork and communications as they navigated simulated incidents such as hazard awareness, underground search and rescue, first aid and fire-fighting.

The competition not only highlights the critical skills required for emergency response but also fosters camaraderie and teamwork among participants from across the two states.

Queensland Mines Rescue Service General Manager - Operations, Ray Smith, said the event was important for the Australian underground coal mining industry.

"The competition is not only a chance for teams to demonstrate and hone their skills but also serves to raise awareness about the importance of safety in mining operations. It brings together the best mines rescue teams from Australian underground coal mines to compete and demonstrate their skills and knowledge. At the end of the day, we celebrate the success of the best team on the day but it's the industry that gains the most from the experience and learnings gained by team members."

NSW Mines Rescue General Manager, Alaster Wylie congratulated all the teams for their efforts during the day.

"This year's competition was nothing short of inspiring. The event is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our rescue teams. It showcases the extensive training and

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preparation that goes into ensuring the safety of all workers in the mining industry. We are proud to support these teams and their ongoing commitment to excellence in emergency response.”

Anglo American Australia CEO Dan van der Westhuizen said the Moranbah North Mine mines rescue team had proven time and again it was among the best in the country.

But he said to win the Australian Underground Coal Mines Rescue competition on the back of a fierce international competition in Colombia last month showed the team’s training was exceptional.

“Mines rescue competitions are an essential opportunity for our industry to ensure we have the right skill sets ready to deploy and save lives across our industry, in the event this becomes necessary,” he said.

“Our highly-skilled mines rescue teams are fundamental to our ongoing commitment to the emergency readiness of Queensland’s coal mining industry.

“I hope more people feel inspired to join their local rescue teams and gain vital skills. Preparedness is crucial, whether it’s in the workplace or in the wider community.”

The winning team will be invited to represent Australia at the International Mines Rescue Competition which will be held in Zambia in 2026.

Ends.

Representing NSW:

- Composite team (Hunter Valley)*
- GM³ Appin (Southern)
- Centennial Springvale (Western)
- Composite team (Newcastle)* team comprised of brigades personnel from different mine sites

* team of brigade members from different mine sites

Representing Qld:

- Thungela Ensham
- Anglo American Moranbah North
- BHP Broadmeadow
- Glencore Oaky North



Winners, Moranbah North

Front row, L-R: Blake Thompson, Jason Seaborn (captain), Scott Ryan (vice captain), Lil Shanley
Back row, L-R: Matt Gough, Kelly Bowmaker, Troy Williams



Second place, Southern Mines Rescue (Appin)

Front row (L-R): Trent Jelley, Daniel Ward (captain), John Nellestein (vice captain), Tyler Stephens
Back row (L-R): Mark D'Arcangelo, Serge Kingi, Bobby Engel, Martin Jackson



Third place, Western Mines Rescue (Springvale)

Front row (L-R): Gavin Monaghan, Luke Smith (captain), Michael Case (vice captain)

Back row (L-R): Michael Charlton, Ben Smith, Nick Mostyn

Absent: Aaron Kelso

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