

SUBMISSION

Progressing the NSW Economic Development Framework

October 2013

NSW MINERALS COUNCIL



About the NSW Minerals Council

The NSW Minerals Council is the peak body representing the state's \$24.5 billion mining industry.

NSWMC provides a united voice on behalf of our 100 member companies: 40 full members (producers and explorers), 25 associate members (junior explorers) and 35 associate members (service providers) and works closely with government, industry groups, stakeholders and the community to foster a dynamic, efficient and sustainable minerals industry in NSW.



Executive Summary

The preparation of a mining Industry Action Plan should be a priority for the NSW Government in 2014 under the NSW Economic Development Framework.

Mining is a strategic industry for the NSW economy with strong community support

Mining underpins regional economies across the state and has significant flow on benefits to other industries. The NSW mining industry:

- Directly spent over \$12.8 billion on goods and services, wages and salaries, local government payments and community contributions in NSW during 2012/13
- Supports over 10,500 businesses throughout NSW
- Is the state's largest export industry (by value)¹
- Employs 53,745 people²
- Generated \$1.3 billion in royalties in 2012-13, with \$7.4 billion forecast over the next four years³

Additionally, there is strong community support for the mining industry and recognition of its economic importance. Research on community attitudes to mining in NSW conducted by Crosby Textor in March 2013 found that 70% of people surveyed said they support mining in NSW and almost 90% of respondents agreed that mining is an important industry for the future of our state.

There is a pressing need for a coordinated mining industry strategy to facilitate growth

The mining industry is a complex industry with many factors influencing its success, ranging across regulatory and policy settings, the availability of infrastructure, skills, community perceptions, commodity prices, investor confidence and competitiveness. Current industry conditions are tough with weaker commodity prices and high costs, which has led to several NSW mines halting production or operating at a loss.

There is a need for a coordinated mining industry strategy in NSW to ensure that all factors influencing the industry's growth are being addressed. This is supported by the outcomes of recent industry forums. The Communiqué from the Hunter Coal Industry Roundtable on 28 June 2013⁴ called on the NSW Government to *"commit to the preparation of a NSW Government Hunter Coal Industry Strategy (as part of a broader State Coal strategy)"*. The NSW Energy Security Summit on 26 September⁵ recommended the development of *"a coal strategy in consultation with key stakeholders that recognises coal as an ongoing significant pillar of the energy sector, especially in international markets"*.

Mining is critical to many of the existing and planned actions in the NSW Economic Development Framework

The NSW mining industry is a major contributor to many of the actions that are underway in the NSW Economic Development Framework, including:

¹ NSW trade statistics, DFAT <http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fs/nsw.pdf>

² ABS, 6291.0.55.003 - *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, (as per August quarter 2013).

³ NSW *Budget Statement 2013-14*. Budget Paper 2, Chapter 6.

⁴ <http://www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au/NSWBC/media/Hunter/Hunter-Coal-Industry-Roundtable-communique.pdf>

⁵ http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/476553/NSW-Energy-Security-Summit-communique.pdf

- International Engagement Strategy – as the state’s largest exporter, the mining industry is a major player in the state’s trading relations with key markets including China, Korea, India and Japan.
- New planning system for NSW – addressing the planning system is a priority for the NSW mining industry, with investor confidence suffering as a result of delays and uncertainty.
- Critical infrastructure – the NSW mining industry’s export infrastructure is a key aspect of our competitive advantage.
- Resources for the regions – the NSW mining industry is closely involved in the identification of infrastructure needs and support for infrastructure in mining affected communities.

Potential actions for 2014 most relevant to the NSW mining industry are outlined below and demonstrate that NSW mining is critical to the success of other sectors. As the peak industry association representing the state’s \$24.5 billion minerals industry, NSWMC, together with its members, would be a willing and proactive partner with the NSW Government in the “*co-development and co-delivery of initiatives*”.

Demonstrate Leadership

- Supporting the needs of major industries in NSW – the NSW mining industry has a large stake in Commonwealth policy settings and strongly supports advocacy on the needs of major industries in this arena.
- Generate growth in regional economies – the NSW mining industry underpins key regional economies in NSW and has the potential to further contribute to regional growth.

Make it Easier to do Business

- Promote the sustainability and growth of small business in NSW – NSW mining companies support more than 10,500 businesses in the state through the purchase of goods and services, including many small businesses.
- Help regional businesses and industry meet skills shortages in NSW – work with industry to identify training requirements and support appropriate education institutions to deliver highly skilled workers
- Other: Review the planning assessment policy framework for NSW mining projects – there is an urgent need for a strategic review of the NSW policy framework for the assessment of mining projects to eliminate duplication and provide certainty to the industry for future investment.

Collaborate to Drive Innovation and Competitiveness

- Drive jobs and business growth in Western Sydney – over 1,000 businesses in Western Sydney received more than \$1.6 billion in direct spending by the NSW mining industry in 2012/13.
- Attract and grow talent in priority sectors – maintaining a pipeline of highly skilled workers is a high priority for the industry, especially in the regions where we operate. In addition, we recognise and celebrate the many exciting and innovative local businesses that support our industry.



Invest in Critical Infrastructure

- Other: Expansion of Resources for the Regions – NSWMC supports the expansion of the available funding and the number of Local Government Areas eligible to apply for funding.
- Other: Careful management of the risks involved in the lease of the Port of Newcastle – NSWMC believes attention is needed on the delivery of export infrastructure upgrades, and the careful management of the lease the world's largest coal port in Newcastle.

Raise the Global Profile of Sydney and NSW

- Demonstrate the sophistication of NSW sectors – The NSW and Australian mining industry is internationally recognised for its technical capabilities and innovation, with significant exports of mining technology throughout the world.
- Strengthen engagement and promotional efforts of NSW industries in priority markets – As a precursor to effective engagement and promotion of the industry the Government must address issues of investor confidence in the approvals system for mining.

The mining industry is fundamental to the success of the NSW economy and achieving the NSW Government's economic targets. The development of a mining Industry Action Plan that outlines a vision for the NSW mining industry, along with a coordinated roadmap of actions that will work towards that vision, would deliver significant returns for the industry, related businesses and the state.



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Introduction

As the peak industry association representing the NSW minerals industry, the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on progressing the NSW Economic Development Framework.

NSW has significant deposits of coal, gold, copper, silver, lead, zinc and industrial minerals. In 2011/12 the total production value of the NSW minerals industry was \$24.5 billion, including \$20.7 billion worth of coal, \$1.4 billion in copper and \$1.8 billion in gold. The vast majority of the state's mining occurs in regional areas such as the Hunter Valley, Central West and the Illawarra.

With its economic impact extending far beyond the industry itself NSW mining has a fundamental role to play in driving economic growth and productivity in the broader economy.

NSWMC is a willing and able partner with the NSW Government to develop and implement actions that contribute to the Government's objectives under the NSW Economic Development Framework and NSW 2021.

This submission outlines how the NSW mining industry is integral to the Government's existing and potential actions under the Economic Development Framework and clearly demonstrates the case for a mining Industry Action Plan.



Part 1 – Industry Action Plans

An Industry Action Plan for mining should be a priority for the NSW Government in 2014. The mining industry is a complex industry with many factors influencing its success, ranging across regulatory and policy settings, infrastructure availability, skills, community perceptions, commodity prices, investor confidence and competitiveness. There is a need for a coordinated mining industry strategy in NSW to ensure that all factors influencing the industry's growth are being addressed.

Mining is a strategic industry for NSW

Mining is a strategic industry for NSW. Mining is essential for the ongoing economic strength of the state economy, and nationally.

NSW is the original mining state. Coal has been exported from NSW since 1799, when the fledgling colony's first export load left by sailing ship for Bombay laden with Hunter coal. Since then the NSW mining industry has grown into a \$24.5 billion industry, and one of the major economic sectors of the NSW economy. The industry employs 53,745 people directly and the employment of thousands more is dependent on a strong mining industry⁶. In 2012/13 the industry directly spent \$12.8 billion on wages, contractors and suppliers, local government payments and community contributions across NSW⁷.

NSW has a significant natural competitive advantage in relation to mining, and particularly coal mining. This was recognised by the NSW Premier when he recently opened the new NCIG coal loader at Newcastle on Friday 20 September:

*"I say to an industry that exported 143 million tonnes through Newcastle last year, keep it up ... I want to make the point that at a time when mining in general and coal mining in particular is under the gun, we have been exporting coal since 1799. I can't see it stopping in my lifetime, my children's lifetime, or their children's lifetime. **Nor should we want it to stop. It has been one of the great economic competitive advantages anywhere in the world.**"*

(Premier Barry O'Farrell, Reported in Newcastle Herald, 21/9/2013)

Mining in NSW is also critical to the ongoing reliable supply of electricity for the state economy. Households and businesses across the state are dependent upon coal-fired power to keep the lights on and businesses running. Around 85 per cent of NSW energy supply comes from coal-fired power.

Mining delivers regional economic strength

Mining makes a significant contribution to the NSW economy but mining's economic contribution in regional NSW is even more important.

Mining is the anchor of economic strength for the powerhouse regions of the Hunter and the Illawarra. The recently released results of the 2012/13 NSW Mining Industry Economic Impact Assessment show that the mining industry directly contributes \$6.3 billion to the Hunter and \$1.4 billion to the Illawarra in spending on goods and services, wages and salaries, local council payments and community contributions.

⁶ ABS, Labour Force, Cat. 6291.0.55.003, August 2013

⁷ NSW Minerals Council, NSW Mining Economic Impact Assessment 2012/13

When indirect effects are taken into account, the total estimated value added by mining is \$12.9 billion in the Hunter, or 35% of gross regional product (GRP), and \$2.9 billion or 16.5% of GRP in the Illawarra.

Mining also underpins the economic strength of towns and communities in other regions across NSW. For example, direct spending by the mining industry the Central West (\$1 billion), North Western (\$376 million), Far West (\$187 million) and Northern (\$181 million) regions is significant, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of GRP.

Direct spend of NSW mining companies



Direct spending and total estimated value of NSW mining industry 2012/13

Statistical Division	Total direct spending (\$ million)	Total estimated value added (\$ million)	Gross regional product (\$ million)	Total value added as % of GRP
Central West	1,003.4	1,887.2	9,963	18.9%
Far West	187.1	324.5	1,093	29.7%
Hunter	6,306.1	12,898.5	36,056	35.8%
Illawarra	1,418.3	2,852.8	17,309	16.5%
Mid-North Coast	56.9	106.9	12,124	0.9%
Murray	12.9	23.6	5,698	0.4%
Murrumbidgee	27.8	51.8	7,786	0.7%
North Western	376.3	699.8	6,409	10.9%
Northern	180.9	334.3	8,815	3.8%
Richmond-Tweed	7.0	13.2	9,307	0.1%
South Eastern	53.8	102.9	8,528	1.2%
Sydney	3,198.2	7,270.2	282,327	2.6%
Total NSW	12,828.8	26,565.7	455,275	5.8%

Mining underpins NSW's trading performance and relationships

NSW has a long history of exporting our mineral resources for economic benefit and our modern economy continues this trend. Mining delivered around 29 per cent of NSW total exports by value in 2012, and coal is our single most valuable export⁸. Newcastle Port is the world's largest coal export terminal, and is at the end of a long coal supply chain that provides the economic backbone to the entire Hunter Valley and beyond. South of Sydney, Port Kembla is also a major operation exporting coal and other minerals to over 60 countries.

Major customers for our coal and minerals include our long-established trading partners in the developed economies of Japan and the Republic of Korea as well as the emerging and rapidly growing markets of China and India. The coal export relationships NSW has with these countries underpin the broader trading relationships NSW seeks in relation to other products and services. Put simply, unless NSW gets these mining export trading relationships right the ability of the state to maximise our other trading opportunities will be hampered.

Mining is needed to achieve NSW 2021 targets

The NSW 2021 plan outlines several economic targets that simply will not be achieved without a strong and vibrant mining sector, including:

- Increase the value of primary industries and mining production by 30% by 2020 (p6).
- Grow employment by an average of 1.25% per year to 2020 (p7).
- Increase the share of jobs in regional NSW (p10).
- Increase the population in regional NSW by 470,000 by 2036 (p10).

There is strong community support for the NSW mining industry

An Industry Action Plan for mining would receive strong support from the community.

Research on community attitudes to mining in NSW conducted by Crosby Textor in March 2013 found that 70% of people surveyed said they support mining in NSW and almost 90% of respondents agreed that mining is an important industry for the future of our state.

Support levels were fairly consistent across the community, with 79% of Liberal/National voters supporting mining and 73% of Labor voters indicating their support.

The research also found that 83% of respondents believe the mining industry is a major contributor to the NSW economy and 76% believe the NSW mining industry has a long term future in NSW.

This research was corroborated by polling released by Newspoll which showed that over two thirds of Australians support our national mining industry and a massive 96% of people believe a strong mining industry is important to the Australian economy.

⁸ NSW trade statistics, DFAT <http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/fs/nsw.pdf>

There is strong business support for the NSW mining industry

Two forums this year have demonstrated strong support for the mining industry amongst the broader business community.

The Hunter Coal Industry Roundtable was held on 28 June 2013. The Communiqué from roundtable⁹ called on the NSW Government to *“commit to the preparation of a NSW Government Hunter Coal Industry Strategy (as part of a broader State Coal strategy)”*.

The NSW Energy Security Summit on 26 September¹⁰ recommended the development of *“a coal strategy in consultation with key stakeholders that recognises coal as an ongoing significant pillar of the energy sector, especially in international markets”*.

The NSW Government must recognise the strategic economic importance of mining

The six Industry Action Plans that have been developed omitted critical industries covering some of our basic economic needs and most prominent natural economic advantages, namely mining, energy and resources.

The NSW 2021 Plan barely mentions mining, despite many of its economic targets requiring a strong and vibrant mining industry in order to be reached.

The NSW Government's Strategic Region Land Use Plans identify several Critical Industry Clusters for the Upper Hunter, but remarkably, failed to identify the Upper Hunter coal industry as a critical industry for the Hunter region despite the industry directly spending \$6.3 billion in the region, directly employing more than 12,500 workers and supporting over 4,800 businesses in the region.

Committing to the development of an Industry Action Plan for mining will mean the NSW Government formally recognises the strategic economic benefit of mining for the NSW economy, the potential benefits that a strong and vibrant mining sector can deliver for NSW, and the need to ensure the ongoing strength of mining to ensure the Government's own objectives are met.

⁹<http://www.nswbusinesschamber.com.au/NSWBC/media/Hunter/Hunter-Coal-Industry-Roundtable-communique.pdf>

¹⁰http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/476553/NSW-Energy-Security-Summit-communique.pdf



Part 2 – Existing Commitments Relevant to NSW Mining

The following existing commitments are underway and will continue into 2014 and are directly relevant to the NSW mining industry. An Industry Action Plan for mining will contribute to the relevance and effectiveness of these actions.

Implementing the NSW International Engagement Strategy

Mining is listed as a priority industry sector in the NSW International Engagement Strategy. The mining industry is a major player in the key markets of Japan, China, India and South Korea, for both our mineral exports and foreign investment.

The objective of the strategy is to support exporters and grow international trade and investment activities in NSW, including the development of country strategies for key target markets. With coal being the state's single largest export and NSW providing energy security for our trading partners, there is no question of the importance of mining to the strategy.

Delivery of an Industry Action Plan for agriculture

The delivery of an Industry Action Plan for agriculture is commendable and will help meet the NSW 2021 objectives relevant to agriculture and contribute to the regional economy. However, this Industry Action Plan should be complemented by an Industry Action Plan for mining, another essential pillar of the economic strength of regional NSW.

A new planning system in NSW

The need to finalise and implement a new planning system in NSW is paramount in ensuring the ongoing contribution of mining to the NSW economy. The current Planning System Review is an opportunity to improve the system and provide much needed certainty and timeliness to investors. Mining sector confidence in NSW is at a low and continuing to decrease. A recent survey found that NSW ranked 44th in a ranking of global mining jurisdictions, down from 20th in 2010/11 and the lowest in Australia with the exception of Tasmania.¹¹

NSWMC research undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers defined the lost opportunities to NSW of continuing and lengthening delays and uncertainty in the planning system. PwC modelled a scenario where all projects were delayed by 12 months, which showed the opportunities lost to NSW:

- **6,445 direct jobs** in mining and **22,400 indirect jobs** would not be created
- **\$10.3 billion** in investment in today's money would be lost
- The Government would miss out on **\$600 million** per year in direct revenue from mining royalties.

¹¹ Fraser Institute, Survey of Mining Companies 2012-13, February 2013

In order to maximise the value of the minerals industry to the people of NSW, while ensuring that the industry develops in a responsible manner, the NSW Government must use the current overhaul of the planning system to:

- Provide a system where the level of assessment is commensurate to the proposed impacts of the project, including an appropriate avenue for the modification of development consents
- Reform Government policy in the area of mining by:
 - Filling policy gaps that are creating uncertainty for industry, community and decision makers
 - Removing duplication between state agencies and between state and commonwealth agencies, in relation to the assessment process and responsibility for operational compliance of the mining industry.
- Ensure that the Government undertakes assessment in the most timely manner. This includes providing statutory timeframes for steps in the process to be undertaken by government and reforming the independent review and decision making functions of the Planning Assessment Commission, providing clear guidance to the Commission on its function and streamlining its deliberations.
- Ensure that the decision making process for mining projects is robust, inclusive, transparent and final.

Critical infrastructure

Uncertainty and delay in the planning system impact on the development of infrastructure critical for the growth of the minerals industry. Most significant is the development of ports and related facilities.

The Government is preparing the state's first NSW Port and Freight Strategy. This is a welcome development and the final strategy should:

- Provide certainty on rail and road networks that reduces delays and allows free flowing movement of freight (including, increasing the separation between passenger and freight movements; and harmonisation between rail corridors).
- Prioritise adequate investment in freight and infrastructure for coal mining communities, ensuring that the deficit in existing mining regions is met (including, the development of the Muswellbrook, and Singleton and Scone and Gunnedah rail overpasses).
- Ensure that the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure removes obstacles to improve freight productivity (including fast tracking the development of key infrastructure projects that support regional rail and road networks).
- Provide for the NSW Government and industry to work together to make better use of the existing network (including, better planning, coordinating and scheduling on rail, roads, and in and out of the ports).
- Implement a whole of system approach to planning for freight transport across state, regional and local areas.



- Ensure that development of capacity of the state's ports keeps pace with demand for industry.

Resources for Regions

The Resources for Regions program is a good first step to addressing longstanding infrastructure deficits in mining communities. NSWMC supports the program and, along with the Association of Mining Related Councils, NSW Farmers and others, is a member of the panel that advises the government on appropriate allocation of the funds.

Establishing appropriate criteria for eligibility for the program has proven challenging, and has led to some perverse results. NSWMC recommends that the Government give further consideration to eligibility for the next round of funding. In particular Gunnedah, Broken Hill, Cessnock, Maitland and Lake Macquarie should be included and be able to apply for the next round of funds.

This funding has provided a lifeline to a number of local government areas, and it is vital that the program continues when the current allocation of funding has been exhausted.



Part 3 – Potential Actions for 2014

This section outlines the mining industry's links to the possible actions outlined in the consultation document, as well as further actions that should be considered.

Demonstrate Leadership

Support the needs of major industries in NSW

Mining is a major industry and should be pro-actively supported. The NSW mining industry has a large stake in commonwealth policy settings and strongly supports partnering with the NSW Government to address the needs of major industries.

One area of specific interest is delivering a 'one-stop shop' for environmental approvals between the commonwealth and the state to streamline assessment and approval processes. This needs to occur through the use of bilateral agreements, as well as working through the practical application of the 'water trigger' recently introduced under the commonwealth environmental legislation.

Generate growth in regional economies

The NSW mining industry underpins key regional economies in NSW and has the potential to further contribute to regional growth. As discussed in the previous section, the mining industry directly spends billions of dollars in regional areas on goods and services, wages and salaries, local council payments and community contributions, which generates a large proportion of gross regional product in places such as the Hunter, Central West, Far West and the Illawarra.

With the right policy settings and support for mineral exploration and mining, there is significant growth potential for the industry across regional NSW.

Make it Easier to Do Business

Promote the sustainability and growth of small businesses in NSW

The latest NSW Mining Industry Economic Impact Assessment identified the number of businesses supported by the NSW mining industry. Across NSW, mining companies support more than 10,500 businesses through the purchase of goods and services, including many small businesses. The businesses range from manufacturing, accounting and engineering to machinery and equipment sales and service and even catering and office supplies.

A strong and growing mining sector in NSW will directly support the delivery of this focus area.



Help business and industry meet skills shortages in NSW

An essential element of a successful NSW mining industry is access to highly skilled workers. The key requirements to achieve this include attracting a steady stream of highly skilled workers who are appropriately educated, ensuring training provided matches the needs of the NSW mining industry, and retaining these highly skilled workers in the industry.

NSWMC believes it is imperative that NSW has adequately trained people to fill available roles in the industry during all cycles. That is why NSWMC is working with a range of organisations and industries to secure a highly skilled workforce that adequately supports the NSW mining industry. Quality education, training and retraining will be critical factors to sustain a highly skilled workforce into the future.

NSW mining companies are proactive in trying to source employment locally. NSWMC works with our member companies to establish programs that inspire, promote and excite local students to consider a potential career in the mining industry.

Attracting and retaining women is another of focus. The industry is determined to tackle the shortage of women employed in non-traditional roles such as engineers, geologists, surveyors and trades, to show that mining is not just welcoming to women, but needs their skills. In 2012, we established the NSW Women in Mining Network to address this shortage.

The network is coordinated by NSWMC and aims to:

- Develop a sustainable network of women in the NSW mining industry
- Address the significant shortage of women employed in non-traditional roles in the mining industry and other issues impacting their recruitment and retention
- Provide guidance and inspiration to women in mining or women considering a career in mining.

In addition to networking events, we also host the annual NSW Women in Mining Awards in March to mark International Women's Day and to acknowledge the achievements of women in mining, including ground breaking efforts by individuals and companies to recruit and retain women.

In June 2013, NSWMC and the NSW Government signed the first Industry Based Agreement on Aboriginal Employment and Enterprise development. The NSW mining industry has been working for a long time to develop Aboriginal employment and economic development opportunities across the State, and the IBA is a positive step forward. It is important that the NSW mining industry and NSW Government keep working closely together to secure some real outcomes in this important area.

The industry strongly believes that economic participation lies at the heart of improving the lives of Aboriginal people in NSW and we want to ensure that they share in the long term benefits that flow from responsible minerals development.



Collaborate to Drive Innovation and Competitiveness

Drive jobs and business growth in Western Sydney

The mining industry's economic impact extends far beyond the well known mining regions. Over 1,000 businesses in Western Sydney received around \$1.6 billion in direct spending by the NSW mining industry in 2012/13, with a further \$0.1 billion directly spent on wages and salaries.

The table below shows economic data for the 10 Local Government Areas (LGAs) that received the highest level of direct spending from the NSW mining industry.

Top 10 Western Sydney LGAs Receiving Mining Direct Spending

LGA	Direct full time employees (FTEs)	Number of businesses supported (#)	Total Direct Impact (\$ million)	Estimated total employment supported (direct and indirect) (FTEs)	Estimated Value added (\$ million)
Fairfield	28.4	152	504.0	5,578.3	1,102.8
Parramatta	39.2	175	375.6	4,256.1	831.6
Auburn	18.2	119	170.1	1,925.4	376.5
Blacktown	58.7	186	157.3	1,822.3	347.7
Camden	108.1	57	137.6	1,658.8	304.8
Campbelltown	369.5	82	86.4	1,383.4	194.1
Bankstown	16.1	101	76.6	870.8	169.0
Holroyd	4.8	39	69.4	767.8	151.7
The Hills Shire	17.9	113	40.0	471.5	88.9
Penrith	26.1	69	36.8	438.0	81.2
Total	687.1	1,092.2	1,653.8	19,172.4	3,648.3

Attract and grow talent in priority sectors

Maintaining a pipeline of highly skilled workers is a high priority for the Industry, especially in the regions where we operate.

The NSW industry is a large supporter of education and career development, supporting a range of careers events, career advisor training events, secondary and higher education scholarships and a large number of other programs.

One initiative is our NSW Mining Scholarships which support local high students in mining regions who are considering studying a minerals related subject at university, in a rolling three year scholarship program. Successful students receive assistance to help with their studies, of \$500 in Year 11, \$1,000 in Year 12 and \$2,000 when they successfully complete their first year in a minerals related tertiary course. Students are also provided with a company mentor, from their sponsoring company, giving them a unique support link from industry throughout the three year program. There are currently 82 students from around the state in the NSW Mining Scholarship Program.

NSWMC has also supported the development of Oresome Resources. Oresome Resources provides free educational resources and teacher professional development to assist the teaching and learning of minerals and energy. This world leading website and iPad app was developed to support teachers and students in the teaching and learning of the minerals and energy industry the collaboration has developed or sourced hundreds of educational resources.



These resources can be accessed on-line by all interested web users at no cost for educational purposes only. The resources are aligned to the Australian curriculum and can be utilised to support its implementation.

It is imperative that the NSW education system supports this pipeline of highly skilled people and is relevant to our industry and delivers high quality training.

Invest in Critical Infrastructure

Other: Expansion of Resources for the Regions

Chronic under funding of critical infrastructure in the mining communities of NSW has provided challenges to these areas taking full advantage of the growth of the mining industry. Basic infrastructure necessary to facilitate residential development in many of these communities such as sewerage treatment, roads and community services are under strain, putting pressure on local housing availability. Increased traffic through mining communities, both road and rail, needs to be addressed.

Without support from the NSW government through the expansion and continued funding of infrastructure, many of these communities will not be able to grow and opportunities to take advantage of the mining and support services sectors will be lost. The funding commitment for Resources for Regions will be exhausted when the 2014 round of applications is finalised. The Government must continue to fund this program and increase its reach by reviewing the eligibility criteria. The inclusion of more eligible LGAs should bring a commensurate increase in the amount of funding available.

Other: Manage the risks involved in the lease of the Port of Newcastle

In June 2013 the Government announced that it will lease Port of Newcastle. Newcastle is the world's largest coal export port; it is a vital part of the coal chain that includes the mines of the Hunter Valley and New England North West.

The lease of the port will provide much needed revenue to the state's economy and directly to Newcastle. There are a number of risks that will need to be managed in the lease process, in consultation with industry. These include the risk that the lease will lead to a reduction of competition and the regulation of port charges.

Raise the Global Profile of Sydney and NSW

Demonstrate the sophistication of NSW sectors

NSW mining is world class, creates the latest technology and innovations, and exports our technology and expertise around the world. We have an opportunity to showcase our achievement in this key sector that underpins our economic relationships with our major trading partners.

It is also an opportunity to improve public understanding of how the sector delivers for the people of NSW in terms of economic output and high tech operations.



Strengthen engagement and promotional efforts of NSW industries in priority markets

Building investor confidence in the NSW mining sector should be a priority for the NSW Government. Undertaking this work is contingent on addressing the concerns of investors about NSW as a destination for investment.

The regulatory uncertainty that has been created by several years of reform of the planning system, including development of the strategic regional land uses policy, as well as recent decisions of the Land and Environment court, has been extremely damaging to investor confidence in NSW. Any engagement or promotional efforts will have limited effect unless there is a clear signal that NSW is open for investment.

