

# 1 GENERAL MANAGERS MESSAGE

I am pleased to provide you with an update on recent mine developments and key environmental issues and community issues.

# 2 FROM THE COAL FACE



A second attenuated 996 excavator commenced operation in early June 2006.

# 3 GLENNIES CREEK REHABILITATION PROJECT



The Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project is a three-year joint environmental management project involving a partnership between Xstrata Mt Owen (XMO) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).

# 4 COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

24 HOUR CONTACT NUMBER

The number is the same as Mt Owen Switch Phone Number 0265 700 800.



# MT OWEN TWO-WAY

The Mt Owen Two-Way Issue No.7 July 2006

## Message from the Xstrata Operations Manager



Welcome to the latest Community Newsletter for the Mt Owen Complex. This newsletter will bring you up to date with mine development and key environmental management and community initiatives. Upfront I would like to welcome the residents of Camberwell village, who now receive the newsletter following requests from several members of the community.

Since commencing as Operations Manager at Xstrata's Mt Owen Complex in January 2006 I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made on reshaping and rehabilitating the main overburden dump at Mt Owen and developing the first mining block in Pit C. Further progress has also been made on our noise management program with the introduction of a second noise attenuated overburden excavator and fleet of quiet trucks to leading practice standards. These initiatives are touched on in further detail throughout the newsletter.

You may recall details of our Biodiversity Offset Strategy research program and the Yorks Creek environmental enhancement project from our December 2005 newsletter. We are pleased to provide you with an update on these projects and introduce a further rehabilitation project that we will be commencing within the Glennies Creek Catchment in 2006. A fact sheet on the Glennies Creek project is enclosed for your information.

I am pleased to announce that our parent company Xstrata Coal NSW has embarked on a program to better understand community perceptions of the company and its operations and to assess the needs of local communities in which it operates. Xstrata Mt Owen is a participant in this program, which is being referred to as the 'Viewpoint' program. A description of the program is provided in the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to welcome Ben Seaborn to Mt Owen. Ben has commenced at Mt Owen as the Thiess Environmental Co-ordinator, replacing Geoff Marschke.

As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to return the enclosed feedback form or contact us with your comments.

**Trevor Wells**  
Operations Manager, Xstrata Mt Owen



A noise attenuated Hitachi 270mt dump truck hauling overburden to the Mt Owen West Dump.

## Environmental Management

### Update on Rehabilitation Works

Over the last three months, reshaping and rehabilitation works have focused on the main Mt Owen overburden dump. Approximately 75 hectares have been reshaped by a large bulldozer and topsoil spread across 60 hectares of this area. Additional topsoil will be hauled over the coming months in preparation for rehabilitation of the remaining area in spring, provided adequate rainfall is received. We are relying on spring and early summer rains to assist with the germination and establishment of vegetation.

After the overburden is shaped, contour drains are established to control waterflow and prevent erosion of the rehabilitated landform. Topsoil stripped ahead of mining operations is then placed and spread across the reshaped surface to a depth of approximately 10cm. The area is then ripped and large rocks removed. Fortunately, Mt Owen currently has access to good quality forest topsoil. This provides an excellent source for the recruitment of native plant species. Following the spreading of topsoil, rehabilitated areas are monitored closely and



Aerial view of progressive rehabilitation works at Mt Owen.

strategic seeding undertaken as required, introducing local forest species that have failed to establish naturally from the topsoil.

Rehabilitation works are administered by the Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources (DPI-MR), with rehabilitation methods and timing documented in a site Mining Operations Plan (MOP). Progress against commitments made in the MOP and the quality of rehabilitation works is monitored by the DPI-MR.

### Update on Biodiversity Offset Strategy Research Program



Newcastle University planting native canopy trees in the North West Offset Area.

In our December 2005 Newsletter we reported that a five year native forest research program has commenced at Mt Owen (in conjunction with the University of Newcastle) to assist with the implementation of the Mt Owen Biodiversity Offset Strategy.

Since the commencement of the program in September 2005:

- Surveys have been conducted across large parts of the South East (SE) Corridor & SE Offset areas to understand baseline conditions and the reproductive potential of the vegetation present.
- Research trial plots have been set up in the SE Corridor & Forest East Offset areas to assess native vegetation germination and establishment for a range of soil preparation techniques.
- Planting of source areas with native tubestock species has commenced in pasture areas so that natural dispersal of vegetation from source areas can be assessed over time.

An estimated 30,000 plants will be planted in Biodiversity Offset Areas by the end of 2006. This will complement areas of natural regeneration and direct seeding (spreading of seed by hand).

## From the Coal Face

### Second Noise Attenuated Excavator and Fleet of Trucks Operational

You may recall from previous newsletters that one of the key noise reduction strategies that Mt Owen committed to through its 2004 Development Application (DA) process was the phased introduction of noise attenuated equipment emitting lower sound power levels.

In late April 2005, the first new attenuated Liebherr 996 excavator and a fleet of five Hitachi 270mt electric drive rear dump trucks were commissioned at Mt Owen. A second attenuated 996 excavator commenced operation in early June 2006, whilst the second fleet of quiet dump trucks were commissioned across the last few months. A third attenuated 996 excavator will be operational by the end of 2006. This compares favorably to our DA target of one attenuated excavator and one fleet of trucks by Year 3 of the project (end of 2007).

# MT OWEN TWO-WAY



## Community & Educational Support

### Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project

The Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project is a three-year joint environmental management project involving a partnership between Xstrata Mt Owen (XMO) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).

The project involves the rehabilitation of a section of Glennies and Main Creeks on land owned by Xstrata Coal (and managed by XMO) to the south of Mt Owen Mine.

The project will address key natural resource management issues facing the Glennies Creek catchment such as invasive weeds, loss of native vegetation cover and streambank erosion. The project provides an opportunity for the community to be involved in on-ground works and make a meaningful contribution to the protection and enhancement of the Glennies Creek catchment.

XMO has engaged Hunter Land Management (HLM) to co-ordinate the Project. HLM are environmental consultants specialising in environmental rehabilitation projects.

We encourage you to read the enclosed Fact Sheet on the Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project, which provides additional details of this initiative and contact details for further inquiries.



Representatives from Hunter Land Management and the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority inspecting one of the Glennies Creek Project sites.

## Community Notice Board

### Xstrata Coal NSW Community Survey

Xstrata Coal NSW has embarked on a program to better understand community perceptions of the company and its operations and to assess the needs of local communities in which it operates. This program is being referred to as the 'Viewpoint' program. The Viewpoint survey commenced late March 2005.

Coakes Consulting has been appointed to work with the company and the community to identify community 'views' associated with Xstrata Coal's NSW operations. The information collected will ensure that benefits associated with the presence of the company in the community are maximised and the negative impacts minimised or managed more effectively. Through community input, the company will be better placed to ensure that involvement and contributions are targeted to meet the specific needs of various stakeholder groups, including local landholders, community and environmental organisations, service providers and state and local government.

If you would like further information on the Viewpoint Program, please contact Ana Maria Esteves at Coakes Consulting on 0417454727.



The Viewpoint program will involve face to face interviews with key stakeholder groups.

### Mining Industry Invests in Future Generations

NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) is the peak body for the State's \$9 billion mining industry, representing mineral producers, operators, explorers and extractive material producers operating in NSW. Xstrata Coal is a member of NSWMC.

Among a wide range of activities, NSWMC runs a suite of innovative programs designed to promote awareness of careers within the mining industry.

These include mine site tours for secondary school teachers and careers advisors and careers information dinners held in key mining regional centres, targeting Year 12 students, their science teachers and careers advisors. The next dinner in the Hunter will be held at Hamilton TAFE in Newcastle on Thursday 17 August. The event will feature a presentation from Xstrata.

NSWMC also has a dedicated careers website known as the 'Careers Café' – [www.nswmin.com.au/campus/careers](http://www.nswmin.com.au/campus/careers).

### Dust Brochure

In accordance with the Mt Owen Consent we have developed a brochure to advise landowners of the possible health and amenity impacts associated with exposure to particulate matter, in consultation with NSW Health, and to the satisfaction of the DoP. Other recent consent conditions for mining projects require the preparation of a similar brochure. NSW Minerals Council has therefore worked closely with NSW Health, the DoP and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to develop the brochure so that the mining industry can provide consistent information to the community.

The brochure was finalised in January 2006 and has been distributed to neighbouring land holders in accordance with the Mt Owen Development Consent. The brochure can be accessed via the Mt Owen Complex website.

### Yorks Creek Landscape Remediation Project

In our December 2005 Newsletter we reported that Xstrata Mt Owen (XMO) had commenced an environmental enhancement project in the upper reaches of Yorks Creek (a tributary of Bowmans Creek) on land to the west of Mt Owen Mine. Since the project commenced in September 2005:

- A Project Plan has been prepared. The Plan identifies the existing natural features of the Yorks Creek project area (including aboriginal sites), identifies and maps key land degradation issues, details the specific measures required to address land degradation issues, and outlines timing for the key stages of the project.
- A Detailed Works Program has been prepared to guide the implementation of on-ground works. The Program includes a process for the involvement of, and on-going consultation with the Aboriginal Community.

XMO plan to commence site activities around September 2006. This will provide an opportunity for local Aboriginal people to assist with activities such as monitoring of archaeological sites during earthworks, native tree planting and seeding, fencing, weed control and maintenance of rehabilitated areas. Further works are planned for 2007. A field day will be held in July 2006 to provide the local Aboriginal community with the opportunity to view the project area, discuss proposed works directly with Mt Owen personnel and to inquire about opportunities for further involvement.

## Mt Owen Community Consultative Committee Update on CCC Meetings

The Mt Owen Complex CCC has met twice in 2006, with a further two meetings planned before the end of the year. Key activities for the year to date include:

- Review of the implementation of key Mt Owen and Ravensworth East Consent conditions.
- Presentation from the DPI-MR on their annual environmental inspection of the Mt Owen Complex.
- Presentation from the University of Newcastle on the Mt Owen Native Forest Restoration Research and Monitoring Program.
- Presentation and discussion on the Glennies Creek Rehabilitation Project.
- Presentation from a member of the local Aboriginal Community on the Yorks Creek Landscape Remediation Project and Cultural Awareness.

Remember that minutes of each CCC meeting are available on the Mt Owen website.

### Community Vacancy on the Mt Owen Complex CCC

We would like to remind you that a vacancy exists for another community representative to join the Mt Owen Complex Community Consultative Committee (CCC). The CCC meets quarterly at Mt Owen Mine, typically on Fridays. Interested persons should contact Brian Thomas at Singleton Council on 65 787351.

### Contacts

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Email: [ncharnock@xstratacoal.com.au](mailto:ncharnock@xstratacoal.com.au)

1800 730 883

Mt Owen Community Response Line

If you have any inquiries or concerns in relation to the Mt Owen Complex, please contact the Mine on the 24-hour freecall Community Response Line.

1800 248 745

Mt Owen Blasting Information Line

For information on blasting times please contact Mt Owen Complex on the 24-hour freecall number.

0265 700 800

24 Hour Emergency Contact Number

For Emergency Events please contact Mt Owen Complex on the 24-hour number.

[www.mtowencomplex.com.au](http://www.mtowencomplex.com.au)