



Ref: 25-11
31 March 2011

Oresome Approach to Education

In an Australian first, school students across the nation now have access to the skills and knowledge they'll need to step up to a career in the expanding minerals and energy sector.

Oresome Resources, an innovative, interactive website for teachers and students, coordinated by the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) in collaboration with fellow peak industry associations, was launched today.

NSW Minerals Council CEO Dr Nikki Williams acknowledged the value of the initiative to the education sector.

"Oresome Resources offers hundreds of free, high quality, interactive education tools in the key areas of science, maths, technology and social science," Dr Williams said.

"The content is developed by teachers, for teachers, with input from multiple education and industry stakeholders.

"It has been carefully aligned to the Australian curriculum and is sure to assist them as they proceed towards its implementation in 2012."

The multimedia online resource is a collaborative effort between peak industry associations, QRC, New South Wales Minerals Council, Minerals Council of Australia, Chamber of Mines and Energy Western Australia, South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy, Tasmanian Minerals Council, Australian Uranium Association and the Australian Coal Association.

It aims to increase the number of students across Australia considering careers in the resources sector, which is facing a skills shortage.

The sector will need about 62,000 additional people over the next five years to service tens of billions of dollars worth of new projects.

The site houses minerals and energy-related education content from all corners of Australia, further enriching the diverse collection of materials available to teachers and students.

CEOs and presidents of the nation's minerals, energy and commodity associations came together at a forum this month in Sydney to endorse the initiative.

"This unprecedented industry collaboration will undoubtedly assist in providing students with the foundation for the future knowledge and skills so greatly needed by industry," Dr Williams said.

"This unique initiative is recognised by education authorities and departments as cutting edge and an outstanding model of industry and education engagement."

Education Services Australia, a national, not-for-profit company owned by all Australian education ministers to support the delivery of national initiatives in the schools, training and higher education sectors, has thrown its support behind the project.

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The company has acknowledged that the resources are a valuable contribution to the collection of digital curriculum resources, made available nationally by governments, which support teachers and students to implement the Australian curriculum.

Oresome Resources strongly aligns with the federal government's National Resource Sector Employment Taskforce recommendations around stronger ties between industry and education announced this month, and further complements other industry initiatives in the pipeline aimed at tackling the national skills shortage.

Oresome Resources can be found at www.oresomeresources.com.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Caption: Robyn Flexman, Head of Science Department, Alexandra Hills SHS Queensland, explores the Oresome website with year 9 student Brandon Mangakahia

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