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New figures show importance of minerals sector in NSW

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The NSW minerals industry is making a growing contribution to communities across the State with thousands of new jobs created and almost \$1 billion dollars in royalties returned to the people of NSW in 12 months, NSW Minerals Council CEO Dr Nikki Williams said today.

'Key Industry Statistics 2010', released today by the NSW Minerals Council, offers a snapshot of the State's minerals sector for 2009-10. Highlights include:

- More than 2,100 jobs were created
- Royalty payments to the NSW Government remained at historically high levels at \$985 million
- Coal exports grew by 6.4% to 109.9 million tonnes and coal was exported to 20 countries
- Safety improved with zero fatalities and a continuing downward trend for injuries
- Gold exploration expenditure was up 128% to \$48.8 million
- Total exploration expenditure was worth \$130 million
- Mining environmental bonds held by the NSW Government grew by \$100 million to \$1.18 billion.

"While WA and QLD are considered the resources states, these figures show that the \$17 billion sector in NSW will continue to make an increasingly important contribution to the State's economy and to local communities," Dr Williams said.

"An estimated \$6.8 billion in royalties from mining over the next four years will help pay for essential services like police on the beat, nurses in our hospitals and teachers in our schools.

"The mining industry now directly employs 35,495 people and more than three quarters of the new jobs in 2009-10 were created in regional NSW. Including the 43,718 jobs in minerals processing, the sector supports a further 355,000 jobs indirectly, which means 12 percent of the State's employment is directly or indirectly connected to mining.

"Coal remains the State's biggest merchandise export earner, worth more than the next four sectors combined (metalliferous ores and scraps, non-ferrous metals, pharmaceutical products and meat)."

Dr Williams said more than 50 new minerals projects or extensions worth \$13.4 billion planned were planned for the next decade and expected to generate 5000 jobs.

"This growth brings with it enormous responsibility and throws up a number of challenges that must be addressed, which is why the industry is thinking about things differently and is open-minded about doing things differently," Dr Williams said.

"We are working hard to address concerns about the cumulative impacts of mining, particularly in the Hunter Valley through the new Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network and our industry-first Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. The community is outlining the problems as they see them and we want to work together to come up with some solutions.

"The minerals industry also supports the Government's new Sub-Committee of Cabinet which is developing a strategy for coal. It reflects our desire to work with the community, other industries including

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farmers, thoroughbred breeders, wine makers, and with our politicians, to help develop appropriate regional land use plans that will inform economic development, provide more certainty for everyone and lead to a strong future for NSW.”

'Key Industry Statistics 2010' is online at [://www.nswmin.com.au/Media-Speeches-and-Info/Key-Statistics/default](http://www.nswmin.com.au/Media-Speeches-and-Info/Key-Statistics/default).

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