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Schoolyard Blitz Touches Down at Parkes

Parkes High School will receive a 'Schoolyard Blitz' on Thursday 10 August, thanks to Northparkes Mine and the New South Wales Minerals Council (NSWMC). The project will include the establishment of native gardens and the construction of a retaining wall to prevent erosion on the site.

Having already been awarded one of 46 \$500 EnviroSmart Grants to be distributed through the program this year, Parkes High School will receive an additional \$2,500 from Northparkes Mine toward the project, as well as a donation of native trees and plants. NSWMC will provide a further \$750.

In addition to the extra funds, 10 staff from Northparkes Mine will join students, teachers and representatives from the NSW Minerals Council to complete the makeover.

"The employees at Northparkes Mines are excited about the Schoolyard Blitz and are looking forward to assisting Parkes High School with the beautification of the school grounds", said Michelle Sharpe, External Relations Officer, Northparkes Mines.

The NSWMC Schoolyard Blitz is an extension of its EnviroSmart Grants program, which is run in mining regions across the State, providing funds for schools to undertake environmental improvement projects.

Under the EnviroSmart Grants program, eligible primary and secondary schools are invited to submit a proposal to NSWMC, outlining an environmental improvement project in their school or local community. The proposal is based on the same model used by mine sites around the State.

NSWMC Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the Schoolyard Blitz program was a vital boost to help complete the work outlined by the school in its EnviroSmart Grants submission.

"It is an innovative way to teach students about the benefits of planning and caring for the native environment.

"The commitment of Northparkes Mine to the program has been the catalyst for a fantastic project which will provide a better learning environment for students. It is a wonderful contribution, not just through the additional funding but with the hands-on assistance that Northparkes will provide to deliver the students' vision for Parkes High School."

"The additional \$2,500 for Parkes High School is in recognition of their outstanding proposal. We congratulate the school's students and teachers for their demonstrated commitment to environmental sustainability."

To date, four schools in NSW have been sponsored by their local mine to run a Schoolyard Blitz. The EnviroSmart Grants and Schoolyard Blitz program follows on from the successful School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) Awards handed out to schools by the NSWMC since 2001.

The program recognises and supports environmental planning initiatives based on the EnviroSmart school environment planning kit developed by the Minerals Council of Australia.

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