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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MINING INDUSTRY RESPONSE TO SOUTHERN COALFIELD PANEL REPORT**

The release of the Independent Expert Panel Report into mining in the Southern Coalfield received a qualified response today from the mining industry.

NSW Minerals Council CEO, Dr Nikki Williams, said the inquiry provided an opportunity for the facts to be put on the table.

“This inquiry has enabled the communities of the Southern Coalfield, as well as mining companies, to put forward their views for examination by an expert panel as part of a science based assessment of potential impacts, risk management, monitoring and the quality of remediation strategies.”

However Dr Williams warned that some of the recommendations had the potential to prejudice some future mining operation in the region.

“The mining industry makes a vital contribution to the Illawarra and Wollondilly economies. The industry is committed to working closely with the community and relevant government agencies to ensure the most balanced outcome for community, environment and industry,” said Dr Williams.

“The Southern Coalfield is the only source of hard coking coal in the State, which is used in blast furnaces during the production of steel. The future of the Australian steel industry and Port Kembla Coal Terminal is dependent upon the continued supply of coal from the Southern Coalfield,”

Illawarra coal mining also supports nearly 3500 direct jobs and over 15,000 indirect jobs as well as royalties and taxes which fund a vast array of Government services.”

“Whilst the industry will continue to work with the Government and other key stakeholders to develop practical improvements that enhance the management of environmental impacts, the industry will carefully consider and evaluate the details of the report and awaits the Government’s response.”

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