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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW To BENEFIT FROM CHINA COAL SUMMIT

The NSW economy stands to benefit significantly from improved collaboration and cooperation with the Chinese coal industry established through an important bi-lateral summit starting in Sydney today.

The inaugural Australia-China Coal summit involves an eight-day visit by a delegation of 30 representatives of the Chinese coal industry who are meeting with their Australian counterparts to discuss developments in coal industry relations between the two countries.

NSW Minerals Council Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the summit provided an important platform to expand the export of NSW's world class mining services and expertise to the largest coal producing nation on earth.

"The NSW coal industry is a world leader in developing advanced safety systems and improved extraction technologies while China is the biggest and fastest growing coal producer in the world," Dr Williams said.

"The synergies between our two countries are obvious. NSW is well placed to export these services to an industry hungry to improve its safety, efficiency and environmental performance."

China has 12 per cent of the world's coal reserves but as the world's largest consumer of coal it also relies on imports. Exports of Australian coal to China grew 74 per cent in 2004 to \$AUD147 million. Most exports are handled by the Port of Newcastle in NSW, the largest coal exporting port in the world.

During the summit keynote addresses will be given by Her Excellency Ambassador Fu Ying, the Chinese ambassador to Australia, and Ian Macfarlane MP, Australian Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources.

The eight-day Australia-China Coal Summit is being hosted by the Federal Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources in cooperation with the Queensland and NSW Governments, the Australian Coal Association, the NSW Minerals Council, the Queensland Resources Council, the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Council and the Mackay Area Industry Network.

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