

MEDIA RELEASE

26 October 2007

Xstrata Coal to 'Blitz' King Street Public School

Singleton's King Street Public School has won a 'Schoolyard Blitz' to transform its school grounds into a leafy learning haven, thanks to local mining company Xstrata Coal and the NSW Minerals Council.

The 'Schoolyard Blitz' will involve a team of Xstrata Coal employees, teachers, students and members of the local community carrying out a comprehensive tree planting program and adding new pathways on the site on 26 October.

In addition to the "Schoolyard Blitz", King Street Public School received a \$500 NSW Minerals Council EnviroSmart Grant, one of 56 grants awarded to schools across the state in 2007, based on its environmental improvement proposal.

Xstrata Coal NSW Chief Operating Officer, Mick Buffier said Xstrata Coal was proud to support the 'Schoolyard Blitz' and EnviroSmart programs as part of its continuing commitment to the local communities in which it operates.

"We are very pleased to participate in the 'Schoolyard Blitz' initiative, with our employees actively playing their part to plant trees and help improve the grounds of the King Street Public School."

"Xstrata Coal takes its responsibility for the environment and the rehabilitation of its mine sites very seriously. Today's activities will help demonstrate on a much smaller scale how each of us can get involved and make a contribution to the local environment," he said.

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

NSWMC CEO, Dr Nikki Williams, said the 'Schoolyard Blitz' program was another fantastic community-minded initiative sponsored by the mining community.

"Mining companies in NSW are important members of their local communities and that is why organisations such as Xstrata Coal are supporters of the 'Schoolyard Blitz' and EnviroSmart programs," Dr Williams said.

"Planting trees is a very environmentally-friendly initiative. Growing trees are important greenhouse gas sinks because they absorb CO2 released into the atmosphere from man-made and natural sources – and I commend King Street Public School and Xstrata Coal on this project," she said.

ENDS

To arrange photographs or interviews, please contact Jai McDermott, Manager Communications
T: (02) 8202 7222 | M: 0400 435 646 | E: jmcdermott@nswmin.com.au

