

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

MINING ENUITY™

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Ref: 40/2006

18 December 2006 MEDIA RELEASE

RECORD NUMBER OF SCHOOLS TO BECOME ENVIROSMART IN 2007

Fifty-six schools from around NSW will share in almost \$30,000 towards environmental improvement projects thanks to the NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) and its member companies.

The funding is part of the EnviroSmart 2006 program, designed to encourage, promote and recognise environmental excellence by schools that develop and implement a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) based on the same model used by mine sites around the State.

NSW Minerals Council Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said that the predominant water conservation theme in the 2006 plans put forward by schools was a signpost of the broad awareness of current strains on water resources.

"This program is a great innovation which helps students realise the vision of projects identified as a direct result of students and teachers using the EnviroSmart teaching resource in their teaching and learning programs."

"We have noticed a strong water conservation focus in the entries. I believe this shows that the current drought conditions are putting pressure on all sectors of the community," she said.

"The NSW mining industry is a leader in water efficiency and water reuse strategies. Whilst at a State level the industry is a relatively small user of water, individual mining sites rely on water for their operation. The industry is deeply committed to finding ways to drive continuous improvements in water efficiency," said Dr Williams.

The fifty-six successful schools for 2006 represents a record number for the EnviroSmart program, an increase of more than 20 per cent on the school communities which took part in 2005.

All successful schools will receive a minimum of \$500 towards the cost of implementing their plan in 2007. Schools from regions surrounding mining operations around the State were eligible for grants under the scheme. The mining operations include:

- Barrick Gold (Lake Cowal)
- BHP Billiton Illawarra Coal
- Centennial Coal (Lake Macquarie, Central Coast, Tahmoor and Western Coalfields)
- Gloucester Coal
- Newcrest Cadia Valley Operations (Orange)
- Northparkes Mines
- Xstrata Coal (Upper Hunter)

Representatives from these mining operations will visit each of their local schools to present their certificates and grants in early 2007.

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