



Coal Services Pty Limited
ABN 98 099 078 234

For immediate release

COAL SERVICES AUSTRALIA'S, MINES RESCUE AND MINE TECHNICAL EXPERTS AT PIKE RIVER COAL MINE, WORKING CLOSELY WITH NEW ZEALAND INCIDENT COMMAND.

New South Wales, Australia, 21st November, 2010 – Coal Services Australia has continued to work closely with the New Zealand incident command, who are overseeing the Pike River coal mine explosion.

NSW Mines Rescue group (a division of the Coal Services Australia group) has two of their technical experts on the ground in New Zealand. Mr Seamus Devlin, NSW Mines Rescue State Manager, and Mr David Connell, Manager of Hunter Valley Mines Rescue Station, are both at the mine assisting with incident planning. Both of these senior staff members have many years of experience in this area, including Beaconsfield (2006), Gretley (1996) and Appin (1979).

On Saturday afternoon the 20th November 2010, an additional eight NSW Mines Rescue expert brigadesmen travelled to Christchurch to be on standby if required to assist with rescue efforts. This team was accompanied by Mr Robert Strang from Coal Mines Technical Services (another division of the Coal Services Australia group) who will provide expert assistance on gas equipment operation, maintenance and interpretation of results. A member of the team also includes Mr Peter Cornford, who has Ventilation Engineering qualifications in the event our services are required to assist in this area.

At this time gas results are not clear at Pike River Coal Mine. An additional borehole is being drilled to an area where the men are expected to be located. This area will also give a much clearer view of atmosphere in mine and whether the mine is safe to enter. NSW Mines Rescue General Manager, Mr Paul Healey said "Team protocols insist that all data related to risks must be understood and within acceptable range before proceeding. This is sometimes a slow and frustrating process, but experience has shown that it is necessary. Rescue teams are equipped and ready to start as soon as a green light for acceptable risks is given by the incident controller."

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For more information please contact:

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About Coal Services:

Coal Services Pty Limited is an industry-owned, workplace focused, specialist organisation leading best practice occupational health, safety, worker's compensation insurance, mines rescue services and innovative training solutions throughout Australian coal mining and heavy industries.

Coal Services Pty Limited has statutory functions as outlined within the NSW Coal Industry Act 2001. These functions include, but are not limited to the provision of workers compensation, occupational health and rehabilitation services for workers engaged in the coal industry; collection, collation and dissemination of statistics relating to the health and safety of workers engaged the coal industry; and the provision of mines rescue services and training to the NSW coal industry.