



MEDIA RELEASE

**COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN TAROOM REBUILD WITH ASSISTANCE
FROM XSTRATA COAL**

Taroom, 10 August 2011

Xstrata Coal today hosted a morning tea to acknowledge the rebuilding efforts of flood-affected community groups in the Taroom area with financial assistance of over \$200,000 from Xstrata Coal's Flood Relief and Rebuilding Fund.

Recipients of funding support from Xstrata Coal included the Lions Club of Taroom Inc., Taroom District Development Association, Taroom District Fishing Restocking Club, Taroom Golf Club, Taroom Kindergarten, Taroom Polocrosse, Taroom Shire Cancer & Palliative Care, Taroom State School and Taroom Tennis Club.

Xstrata Coal General Manager for the Southern Region Bill McKinstrey said he was impressed by how the Taroom community had worked together to recover from the flood events in late 2010 and early 2011.

"The Flood Fund was set up to provide financial support for community organisations in and around the areas of Taroom, Miles, Condamine, Chinchilla and Dalby that were adversely affected by the floods," Mr McKinstrey said.

"Xstrata Coal is pleased to meet with Taroom community groups and organisations today to hear about the rebuilding progress in and around the local community.

"Since the establishment of the fund, Xstrata Coal has contributed around \$300,000 to almost 30 community organisations in the region and around \$5 million to flood recovery and rebuilding projects across Queensland.

"While many people throughout Queensland continue to rebuild and recover following the floods, we hope that this contribution highlights our commitment to supporting communities in the regions in which we operate, and has helped ease some of the challenges that were faced."

Of the \$5 million contribution, \$3 million was contributed by Xstrata Coal to flood recovery and rebuilding projects across Queensland, which follows an initial \$2 million donation to the Premier's Flood Relief Fund.

Xstrata Coal allocated \$100,000 to the Banana Shire Council to assist with the restoration of flood-damaged local roads and the Taroom airstrip.

President of the Taroom District Development Association Greg Hill said Xstrata Coal's support had been essential to recovery efforts on the ground.

"The availability of funding from organisations like Xstrata Coal has meant that people in our community have been able to move forward in their day-to-day lives," Mr Hill said.

"As part of our organisation's long-term plan, Xstrata Coal has enabled us to not only repair the Dawson River Walk but also upgrade it for the benefit of the local community and other visitors to the area."

The Dawson River Walk is a recreational walking track along the Dawson River in Taroom where local people enjoy walking and bike riding. The walk was washed away in the floods. The Xstrata Coal funded upgrade, is part one of a four stage plan to upgrade the existing walk between the Taroom District Development Association and the Banana Shire Council.

Xstrata Coal is proposing to develop the Wandoan Coal Project at Wandoan, an open-cut thermal coal mine, for which conditional State and Federal environmental approval has been granted.

Ends

Please note: Photographs of the event and community groups and organisations are available on request.

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