



MEDIA RELEASE

XSTRATA COAL PROMOTES LEARNING PATHWAYS THROUGH NEW SCIENCE CENTRE AT WANDOAN STATE SCHOOL

Wandoan, 20 October 2011

Wandoan State School students will benefit from a new Science Centre that was officially opened today and made possible by a partnership between Xstrata Coal, Education Queensland and the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA).

The Wandoan State School Science Centre is one of the key initiatives under the \$720,000 Xstrata Coal Wandoan Education Partnership, which aims to improve pathways from senior school to work in industry for schools in Wandoan, Taroom and Miles.

General Manager for the Wandoan Coal Project Bill McKinstrey said that Xstrata Coal was pleased to support Wandoan State School in providing exciting learning opportunities for its students through the new facility.

"Funding for the centre includes Hands-on Science Days with visiting experts, field trips and development opportunities for not just students but teachers as well," he said.

"We hope that initiatives under this partnership will give Wandoan students the skills they need to take advantage of the benefits and opportunities that will come out of the resources sector."

QMEA Director, Rodger Atkins said Xstrata Coal's support in regional areas was essential for industry development.

"The partnership is helping create closer relationships between schools and industry," he said.

"The expansion of the QMEA to schools like Wandoan, Taroom and Miles means that students are now able to have access to close industry relationships and facilities, to ensure resources sector career and pathways are made obvious for students making career decisions."

Wandoan State School Principal Bryan Power said that other initiatives already underway included support literacy programs and extra teacher aide time, funding for school bursaries and incentives grants to Wandoan district employers to hire apprentices.

“This is a fine example of what can be achieved by the education sector and industry working together,” Mr Power said.

“We are pleased that Xstrata Coal is showing so much support for our school and we look forward to continuing this partnership into the future.”

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Please note: Photographs of the event are available on request.

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