



MEDIA RELEASE

XSTRATA COAL SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR WANDOAN BUFFER ZONE

Wandoan, 20 October 2011

Xstrata Coal and Western Downs Regional Council today officially signed a High Management and Buffer Zone Agreement for Wandoan.

The formal signing highlights the cooperation between the Wandoan and District Liaison Committee, Western Downs Regional Council and Xstrata Coal to achieve the agreement.

Executive General Manager of the Wandoan Coal Project Steve Bridger said a two kilometre mining exclusion zone will be established around the township of Wandoan as part of the agreement

"We've been working closely with the Wandoan District Liaison Committee to negotiate the buffer zone and discuss measures to reduce the impact of the mine operations on Wandoan," Mr Bridger said.

"We are happy that we were able to sit down with community leaders to find a solution - we want Wandoan to be a vibrant and liveable community for locals and our employees."

Wandoan and District Liaison Committee chair Bill Blackley said he was encouraged by the process of this important milestone.

"The community of Wandoan, after four years of negotiation, is please to sign off on an agreement with Xstrata," Mr Blackley said.

"It is anticipated that with the extra monitoring sights and the filtering effect of the green zone to be planted within the two kilometre exclusion zone, that the liveability of Wandoan will be preserved."

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown has welcomed the momentous signing of the two-kilometre buffer zone agreement around Wandoan by Xstrata after considerable campaigning by local residents.

“Western Downs Regional Council is delighted at what has been achieved for the Western Downs region and now the small community of Wandoan will benefit into the future.”

Ends

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

For further media information:

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