



For immediate release - 10 August 2015

Wyong Coal sign mutual agreement with Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation

In a move to support the wider Central Coast Indigenous community, Wyong Coal has entered into an agreement with representatives of Guringai and the traditional owners of the Central Coast land - the Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation (Guringai TLAC). This agreement will see the two organisations work together to deliver increased education and training opportunities for the indigenous community of the Central Coast.

Wyong Coal, the proponents of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, have been working with the Guringai TLAC to develop this Mutual Advancement Covenant that will see five programs be introduced for Indigenous people in the region, starting now and covering an initial three year period.

The five program areas that will be funded under the agreement, are apprenticeships, business start-up schemes, a mentor scheme, a Green Team scheme and tertiary scholarships.

The agreement signed on 4 August 2015 also provides for a guaranteed minimum target of 10 per cent employment for Indigenous people once the Wallarah 2 Coal Project becomes operational.

Community and Environment Manager for the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, Peter Smith says this agreement is a positive and beneficial outcome for local Indigenous people and the wider Central Coast community.

“We have been working with Tracey and David at Guringai for several months to ensure this agreement provides much needed enduring benefits to the Central Coast Indigenous community and in turn benefit for the wider Central Coast community.

“The agreement between our organisations articulates the introduction of five new programs that we feel can increase opportunities and aid Indigenous people to develop robust skills that will strengthen their long-term job prospects,” added Peter.

Chief Executive Officer of Guringai TLAC, Tracey Howie, is excited that this agreement with Wyong Coal will not only create educational and training opportunities but will increase awareness of Aboriginal people and their culture.

“This agreement means more than just the creation of opportunities for our people, this will provide education and training as well as long-term employment. This partnership will also foster increased awareness of Aboriginal culture, identity and heritage amongst our local community, through the apprenticeship and mentor programs we have planned,” said Tracey.

As part of the agreement, Wyong Coal and Guringai TLAC will work together to develop a steering committee who will ensure successful delivery of these programs.

-ENDS-

For more information, interviews or photo opportunities:
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Media Background Notes:

The five key programs that make up the Mutual Advancement Covenant between Wyong Coal and Guringai TLAC are:

1. Apprenticeship Scheme:

Three Apprenticeships over the next three years. Apprentices may be fulltime or school based

2. Business Start-up Scheme

Funding to provide to local Aboriginal persons (or companies owned and operated by local Aboriginal persons) to assist with business start-up expenses.

3. Mentor Scheme

A mentoring program to train and enable experienced mentors to assist participants in our programs to develop and succeed in business and education.

4. Guringai Green Team Scheme

To fund training at TAFE or other suitable venues toward the establishment of a Green Team, who will operate as a business in the environmental projects and land management space

5. Scholarships

Support for tertiary study via four scholarships over a three year period including one dedicated to studies in Archaeology.

The Guringai TLAC is a support and educational organisation committed to uniting the traditional clans of the Guringai, through promoting their family history and culture. As traditional owners of the coastal land on the Central Coast, the Corporation undertake cultural heritage assessments and reports, provide educational workshops and presentations and develop educational resources and language books for training purposes.



Wyong Coal Managing Director, Sang Seob Park and Guringai TLAC Chief Executive Officer, Tracey Howie.



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