



The Hon Chris Hartcher

Minister for Resources and Energy

Special Minister of State

Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 8 June 2011

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MINERALS EXPLORATION IN NSW

Minister for Resources and Energy, Chris Hartcher today welcomed more than 120 mineral explorers from across Australia to NSW Parliament to hear the latest results from geoscience surveys and opportunities in under-explored parts of NSW.

The Exploration in the House annual seminar discussed the latest in exploration initiatives and opportunities for exploration, as well as opportunities arising out of the NSW Frontiers program.

“The Liberal & Nationals Government has long acknowledged the importance of minerals exploration and the key role to be played by the resources industry in rebuilding our State and making NSW ‘number one’ again,” Mr Hartcher said.

“NSW now ranks as a highly preferred jurisdiction for investment in exploration and mining.

“We will continue to encourage new discoveries via exploration initiatives that deliver profound social and economic benefits to regional communities across NSW.”

Mr Hartcher said new resource developments return much-needed social infrastructure to regional communities including doctors, dentists and banks where there is a downturn in agriculture.

“Exploration initiatives ensure that dollars flow to the State, creating jobs and leading to new mineral and energy discoveries and future mines in regional NSW.

“In 2009-10, the value of NSW mineral production was estimated at approximately \$17 billion.”

Following the completion of the Grafton/Tenterfield airborne geophysical survey, state-wide coverage of high resolution airborne geophysics will reach 88% of the state.

“Exploration is vital to the future of our State. The latest exploration initiatives will help give us a competitive advantage in the search for new mineral resources,” Mr Hartcher said.