



# Budget 2009-10

# Investing in Jobs

## MINERAL RESOURCES

### Increased investment in clean coal technology

The NSW Government will invest \$71 million in the State's mining industry and increase its commitment to clean coal technology.

"A key focus of the Mineral Resources Budget is a \$16.5 million investment in clean coal technology, which will help accelerate the work which we are already doing in NSW," Minister for Mineral Resources Ian Macdonald said.

"Clean coal technology will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our carbon footprint.

"We have a Clean Coal Council which gives advice and administers the NSW Government's \$100 million Clean Coal Fund.

"On the State's Central Coast, the \$5 million Munmorah Pilot Carbon Capture plant is up and running, designed to capture about 3,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.

"A search is already underway to find suitable sites which could safely store carbon dioxide, with a drilling program in progress near the Lake Munmorah Power Station."

Minister Macdonald said the mining industry is the largest commodity export industry in NSW, with the total value of mineral and metal exports in 2007-08 exceeding \$13 billion.

"The mining industry provides thousands of jobs to rural communities, which is essential when many towns are suffering financial hardship due to one of the worst droughts on record," Mr Macdonald said.

"The highly successful New Frontiers exploration initiative provides new opportunities in under-explored parts of NSW, such as the far west, where there is the potential for further mineral and gas discoveries.

"Experts are also looking to identify geological formations for their potential gas production and disposal of carbon dioxide.

"The Government's ongoing support will see this important program continue until June 2011 at \$5.5 million a year."

Minister Macdonald said other key areas of the Budget include:

- \$23.7 million for mine safety - This includes funding for site assessments, accident investigations, technical assessments and maintaining oversight of the equipment used in NSW mines.
- \$1.9 million for derelict mine site rehabilitation which includes remediating derelict former mine sites. Most derelict mines date from the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

