



MEDIA RELEASE
THE HON. KERRY HICKEY, MP
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES
MEMBER FOR CESSNOCK

MINISTER OPENS COAL INDUSTRY CENTRE

EMBARGO: 3pm, September 2003

Minister for Mineral Resources and Country Labor Member for Cessnock, Kerry Hickey, today opened the new Coal Industry Centre at Singleton.

Mr Hickey said he was happy to take part in this exciting local initiative.

“The coal industry impacts on all our livelihoods,” Mr Hickey said.

“For every job directly generated in mining, another four are created.”

The economic benefits in terms of business activity, employment and investment flow through to the rest of the State and Australia,” he said.

Mr Hickey said the new Centre presents a showcase for many facets of the coal industry and its performance.

“I am a strong advocate for increased community involvement in the coal sector,” he said.

“Through their support of this project, local coal companies are demonstrating the level of corporate citizenship that I want to see as Minister for Mineral Resources.”

“This involves safe and efficient production values, sound environmental management and strong ties with our community.”

Mr Hickey said the new centre provides a valuable link between industry and community and a venue for consultative meetings, seminars and tourism activities.

It is also an important school education tool and has been endorsed by the District Superintendent of Schools.

“I encourage both primary and secondary schools to use the centre as a reference point for science studies,” Mr Hickey said.

Mr Hickey congratulated all parties that have worked hard towards achieving this great initiative for the Hunter region and our coal industry.

“I know there have been a number of similar proposals in the past which have not advanced, and I appreciate the perseverance that has made the centre a reality,” he said.

“The Coal Industry Centre will help visitors, locals and students understand the industry – and its importance to our community and our State.”