



The Hon Chris Hartcher
Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State
Minister for the Central Coast

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22 June 2012

**NSW GOVERNMENT WELCOMES US\$845 MILLION
INVESTMENT IN ILLAWARRA COAL**

The NSW Government today welcomed news of a US\$845 million investment in Illawarra Coal to establish a new mining area called Appin Area 9.

The project will ensure continuing employment for 500 people currently at West Cliff mine and generate more than 300 construction jobs.

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher said the decision by BHP Billiton to continue its investment in the Illawarra represents a huge vote of confidence in the strength of the NSW resources sector.

“This is great news for the Illawarra and the regional economy – it means jobs, continuing investment and community benefits,” Mr Hartcher said.

“This is also a great result for the State’s economy at-large. We welcome the jobs and investment that the mining industry offers NSW as part of the economic revival the O’Farrell Government was elected to deliver.

“NSW will benefit from the royalties that come from the utilisation of our coal resources – royalties that pay for our nurses, our police and our teachers.

“This sends a positive message to potential investors in NSW that we are supportive of resource and mining investment.”

The investment was approved following NSW Government and Federal Government approval of the Bulli Seam Operations Project.