The Hon Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Resources and Energy
Special Minister of State

MEDIA RELEASE

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$6 MILLION TO EXPAND THE NSW DRILL CORE LIBRARY

Minister for Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts today marked the $6 million expansion of the NSW Government's Drill Core Library.

The world class facility, the *WB Clarke Geoscience Centre* at Londonderry in Western Sydney, celebrated the expansion by donating a framed 255 million year old fossil to visiting students from St Marys Senior High School.

The fossil shows well preserved *Glossopteris* leaves, an extinct group of seed ferns that dominated the Southern Hemisphere around 299 to 252 million years ago.

Mr Roberts said the NSW Drill Core Library plays a significant role for the State and mining industry by archiving drilled rock samples.

"This funding demonstrates our support for valuable mining exploration, while providing a fascinating destination for high school and university students," Mr Roberts said.

"Mining and exploration companies frequently use the library to analyse a region's potential by examining drill core samples before undertaking exploration drilling.

"The unique facility has proved vital in locating gold and other valuable minerals across NSW.

"The library holds approximately 1.5 million metres of drill core samples, plus rare meteorites, rocks, minerals and fossils as old as 500-million years. The expansion will bring the library's total storage capacity to almost 2 million metres of drill core.

"The facility's geologists, including palaeontologists and mineralogists, identify and date the samples received from industry and the regional mapping operations of the Geological Survey of NSW.

"Specialist equipment at the centre scans the drill core sample to assess and fingerprint the minerals in it, so that deposits in different areas can be compared.

"Today we have also donated a stunning NSW geophysical map highlighting the important work of the centre. The map, made using total magnetic imaging techniques, reveals rocks, fault lines, basins and other features, hidden just beneath the earth's surface.

"I hope more students will be inspired to take an interest or consider a career in geology, palaeontology or the associated industries," Mr Roberts said.