



# The Hon Chris Hartcher

## Minister for Resources and Energy

### Special Minister of State

### Minister for the Central Coast

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday 30 October 2013

### PROVIDING CERTAINTY FOR MINE SAFETY APPOINTMENTS

Resources Minister Chris Hartcher said the Coal Mine Health and Safety Amendment (Validation) Bill 2013, which passed through the Legislative Assembly today, removes any uncertainty over the appointment of mine inspectors, safety officers and investigators.

Mr Hartcher said the Bill amends the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 2002* to retrospectively validate appointments to statutory mine safety positions since 2006.

“The mining industry in NSW employs thousands of people regionally, contributes well over a billion dollars each year in royalties to the State and contributes to local infrastructure,” Mr Hartcher said.

“It is also an industry where injury and death still occur. And even though these confronting events still occur, we can be thankful that they are now less prevalent.

“While this change is due to industry changing its approach to safety management, it is also due to the tireless work of inspectors and mine safety officers.

“However the concern has arisen from mine safety appointments made in 2006 where the instrument of appointment under delegation may have been deficient.

“This Bill will provide certainty that all approvals, orders, directions and other actions taken by the Chief Inspector and the other statutory positions are valid, ensuring the integrity of the actions taken by mine safety staff.”

Mr Hartcher said the *Coal Mine Health and Safety Act* is an important part of the work health and safety laws that regulate health, safety and the welfare of people working at coal operations and related workplaces.

“The Act provides for a significant compliance and enforcement regime for safety, and the appointment of government officials to undertake this role.

“This Bill will remove any uncertainty over the appointment of these officials and will mean that any compliance and enforcement actions can continue without question.

“The NSW Government is firmly committed to the elimination of deaths and injuries in coal mining and related workplaces.

“This Bill gives certainty to key players in reaching this goal by making certain that there are no technical hindrances to their appointments.”