



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIGHTS OUT AT NORTHPARKES AND MEMORIAL HILL

Parkes, Thursday 25 March 2010

Northparkes and Parkes Shire Council will be participating in Earth Hour 2010 this Saturday 27th March by turning off all surface lights at the mines operations and the lights on Memorial Hill, a prominent feature in Parkes.

This global movement started in Sydney in 2007 and in 2009 had grown to involve 50 million people and 400 cities to shed light on the issue of climate change. Northparkes and Parkes Shire Council are supporting this event to increase awareness of our employees and their families.

Dr Craig Stegman, General Manager, Northparkes Mines says "People may find it ironic that a mining operation is trying to bring attention to the issue of climate change. Northparkes believes it not only makes good business sense but also sends a strong message that we are all responsible for reducing our energy consumption and managing our businesses in an energy efficient manner."

Northparkes are currently assessing 17 energy improvement opportunities across the mining operation in 2010 alone and are constantly looking for ways to further improve energy efficiency.

Employees and their families will converge on Northparkes Oval to watch Memorial Hill lights and Northparkes operations lights being switched off on the big screen at 8:30pm for one hour. Families and friends will share the experience by candle light and take away from the experience the importance of looking after our environment.

Ends

For more information

Northparkes Mine contacts

Jeremy Hastings

External Relations Advisor

Telephone +61 (0)2 6861 3126

Mobile +61 (0)408 282 554

Email Jeremy.hastings@riotinto.com