



MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTHPARKES MINES CELEBRATES E48 BLOCK CAVE MINE AND OPEN DAY

6 November 2010

Today Northparkes celebrated two significant milestones: the Opening of the E48 Mine and the mines' fifth Open Day.

"This is very rewarding day for our business," Managing Director Dr Craig Stegman said today.

"After more than 10 years of evaluation work, design and engineering studies and construction Northparkes has achieved a notable milestone and officially opened the new E48 block cave mine.

"Over 1000 people have worked on the construction of the E48 mine and today is a celebration of a job well done by our management, employees and contractors.

"The E48 mine represents the next stage of underground mine development at Northparkes and is our mine of the future.

"The \$280 million E48 project has extended the life of mine for Northparkes from 2014 to 2024. This will ensure continuity of employment for our workforce of over 600 people and will ensure Northparkes continues to be a major economic contributor to the local Central West community. "

Northparkes was extremely honoured to have Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales open the E48 mine. The official ceremony was attended by representatives from Federal, State and Local Government, Northparkes' joint venture partners, Rio Tinto and Sumitomo Group companies and many members of the community and mine staff.

"We are very fortunate to have been able to share the official opening of the E48 block cave mine with our local community and many special guests as part of our Open Day, said Dr Stegman.

"The Open Day is our major event on our calendar and it is wonderful to see so many people here today who seized the opportunity to learn about Copper and Gold and the broader mining industry.

"Today the community saw mining first hand through interactive tours, display stands and by getting up close with our large heavy machinery.

The theme for the open day was ***Copper- the Green Metal*** and Northparkes showcased how copper is driving energy efficiency and sustainably for use at home and in industry.

"Northparkes thanks everyone who has worked extremely hard to make the day a success. We appreciate the support we have received from the local community organisations, our suppliers and our contractors. We have had over 2000 visitors to our mine today and a special thanks must also go to the many Northparkes volunteers and staff who have ensured the day has been success".

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