



MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTH PARKES MINES 2010 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT OUT TODAY

Many members of the Parkes community will find Northparkes Mines' *2010 Sustainable Development Report* in their mailbox today.

Managing Director, Craig Stegman said "The Northparkes Mines Sustainable Development Report is an important report because it explains our business performance against the key performance indicators that our community and other external stakeholders measure us by.

"This includes our economic, environmental, people and community goals & targets in 2010 and how we aim to continue to improve our performance in 2011.

"2010 was a very busy and exciting year for Northparkes. As we continued to grow and expand to build a strong and viable long term business, so too did our role within our community.

"Our key operational highlights in 2010 were the completion and official opening of the new E48 block cave mine and the announcement by our joint venture partners, Rio Tinto and Sumitomo Group Companies to invest \$90 million (which increased to \$115 million in 2011) in a Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS) for our Step Change project.

"I am very proud of these achievements and even more so that they have been underpinned by a workplace culture based on the core values of health and safety, continuous improvement, team work, strong leadership, open and honest communication and work-life balance.

"Our key engagement with the community during 2010 was our Open Day and the Opening of our E48 block cave mine by Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir, AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales. This event saw approximately 2500 people visit our operations to learn more about mining, exploration, our mill and careers in the mining industry. The success of our Open Day was a credit to the hard work of our employees and community groups who organised and participated in the day.

"Throughout 2010, Northparkes has promoted the theme of *Copper – the Green Metal*. We have tried to demonstrate how we sustainably produce gold and copper; how important copper is to the future of the world, as a metal that drives energy efficiency and lowers carbon emissions and how it is used to fight disease.

"At Northparkes we have used technology and innovation to drive safety improvements by reducing workplace hazards and increasing operational efficiency.

"In 2010 Northparkes was selected by Rio Tinto as the trial site for a new underground excavation system, the Tunnel Boring System (TBS) and commenced the development of our Loader Automation system - our Mine of the Future.

"At Northparkes we are vitally interested in how we can continue to mine in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and socially responsible and I hope that this report explains how we try to accomplish this objective.

"I hope our community and stakeholders continue to find this report to be a useful and informative reference for our business," Craig Stegman said.

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An online PDF version of the report is available at http://www.northparkes.com.au/reports_and_publications.aspx

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