

# Environment News

**COAL  
&  
ALLIED**

*A Rio Tinto Group Company*

June 2003 Issue No1

A newsletter for neighbours

## What is Environment News?

Environment News is a new community newsletter for those people that live close to Coal & Allied's Hunter Valley Operations (HVO), Warkworth Mining Limited (WML) and Mount Thorley Operations (MTO). It is intended to update you on current activities with an environmental focus.

The Coal & Allied Environment team hope that this newsletter will help strengthen our relationships with our neighbours.

### Regulatory Compliance and Environmental Incidents

Since 2001, Coal & Allied has been improving the environmental awareness of employees through training and better reporting of incidents.

As a result, over the past 2 years the number of low-level (Category 1 and 2) incidents reported has increased while high-level (Category 3 and 4) incidents has dropped. This trend has continued in 2003. This year 30 Category 1 incidents and 3 Category 2 incidents have been reported. No Category 3 or 4 incidents have occurred.

At the end of the March 2003, Coal & Allied was in full regulatory compliance with all of its Environment Protection Licences and Development Consents.



Environmental Coordinator, Michael Barry, Linking with the pupils at Milbrodale school.

### Little Link Program

Environmental Services has initiated an interactive school links program with two local schools:

- Milbrodale Public School (neighbouring Warkworth and MTO)
- Jerry's Plains Public School (neighbouring HVO.)

The program is closely linked with the school curriculum and helps the children gain a better understanding of their region and the mining activity that occurs in their neighbourhood.

The first session on Places covered identifying landmarks on regional maps, discovering the origins of coal, how it is formed, mined and used and exported to.

Two more sessions are planned for the remaining school terms.

### What's Happening at HVO

- HVO West Pit—Eastern Extension

*Progress to Date*

⇒ Consultation commenced

⇒ Planning Focus Meeting held

⇒ Documentation being prepared

- Little Links program commenced with Jerry's Plains School.

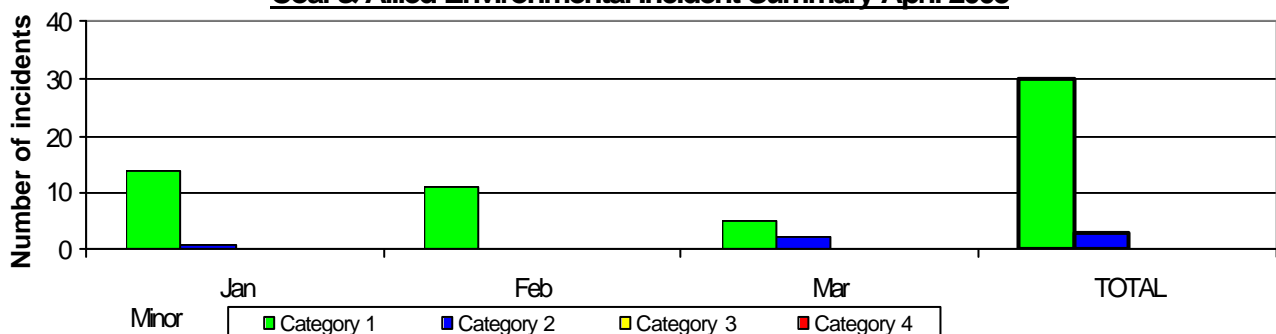
- General Manager Nik Senapati is out and about visiting near neighbours.

- Site Environmental Coordinators have swapped sites. Leah Cook is now at HVO

- Carrington West Wing mining has commenced

- Coal & Allied's Environmental Management System has been certified to the international standard ISO14001

### Coal & Allied Environmental Incident Summary April 2003

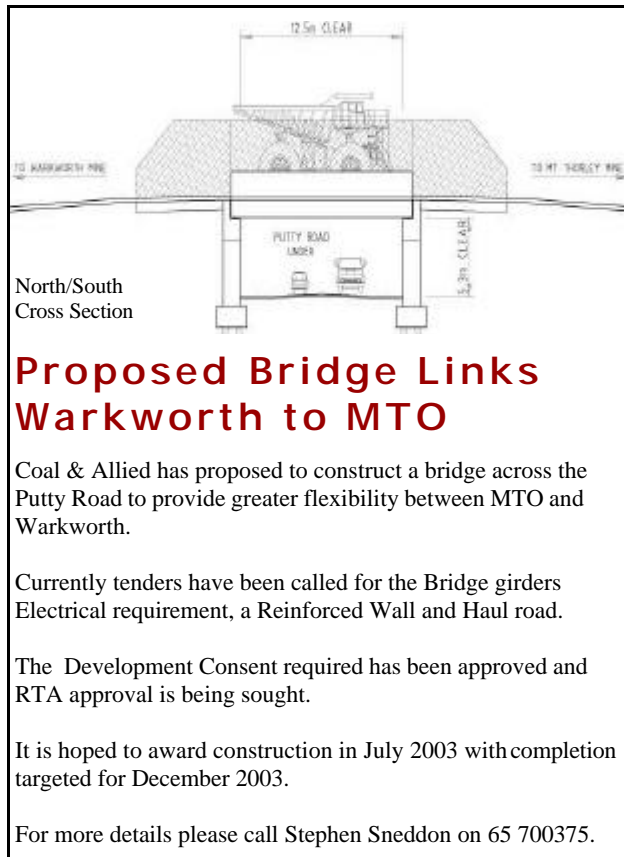


## WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT WORKS

In recognition of some of the potential impacts of the extension of Warkworth Mine on its local environment the Mine has committed to making a contribution of up to \$15,000 to water quality enhancement works in the Wollombi Brook.

James Bailey, Coal & Allied's Manager Environmental Services, has been speaking to Wendy Lawson of the Broke/Bulga Landcare Group and Wollombi Catchment's Water Users Association about using this grant to leverage further funding from government environmental enhancement schemes. The aim is to have a significant river care project underway next to Broke Village.

Please contact either James on 65-700252 or Wendy on 65-791334 for further information.



**Proposed Bridge Links Warkworth to MTO**

Coal & Allied has proposed to construct a bridge across the Putty Road to provide greater flexibility between MTO and Warkworth.

Currently tenders have been called for the Bridge girders Electrical requirement, a Reinforced Wall and Haul road.

The Development Consent required has been approved and RTA approval is being sought.

It is hoped to award construction in July 2003 with completion targeted for December 2003.

For more details please call Stephen Sneddon on 65 700375.

## Points of Interest WML/MTO

- The Warkworth Extension has received Ministerial approval.
- Little Links program commenced with Milbrodale Public School.
- Real Time Monitoring Systems are being developed and implemented for MTO/WML.
- General Managers Chris Salisbury and Antony Bijok keen to meet near neighbours. Visits being arranged
- Site Environmental Co-ordinators have swapped sites. Michael Barry is now at MTO/WML
- Extension to existing tailings facility commenced at WML

## Community Consultative Committees (CCC)

Community Consultative Committees exist for Mount Thorley Operations, (MTO) Warkworth (WML) and Hunter Valley Operations (HVO).

The purpose of these committees is to provide a forum for community discussion. Each committee includes representatives from Singleton Council (Mary Robinson, Tony McNamara, Sue Moore and John Douglas), government agencies (DMR, DWLC & EPA) and at least four community representatives. At a minimum, meetings are held twice a year.

Community reps: MTO – Gerry Feeney, Bruce Russell, Megan Lobb and Susan Timbury  
 WML – Gerry Feeney, Bruce Russell, Megan Lobb and Stewart Mitchell, (alternate delegate Susan Timbury)  
 HVO – Ian Beal, Jeannie Hayes, Paul Nichols, Scott Taylor, Charlie Shearer, Ted Burley and Murray Shaddock

Last meeting: MTO - 8th May 2003; WML – 9th April 2003; HVO—21st March 2003

Key issues: MTO– Blasting and amalgamation of MTO and WML CCC's.  
 WML- Putty Road maintenance and information signs  
 HVO - 1/4ly CCC's and blasting time trials to minimise impacts

Next Meetings WML/MTO combined meeting 15th October 2003 and HVO 10th July 2003

For more information please contact Coal & Allied Environmental Services or the Environmental Coordinator at the site you are interested in.

Coal & Allied Environmental Services Phone **6570 0252**  
 Hunter Valley Operations Phone **6570 0376**  
 Warkworth & Mount Thorley Operations Phone **6570 1534**.

The Environmental Hotline is accessible 24 hours a day in the event of any environmental concerns  
 Phone **1800 656 892**

[www.coalandallied.com.au](http://www.coalandallied.com.au)