

Media Release

SKILLSDMC HONOURS INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS AT ANNUAL CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS *Resources and infrastructure industry looks beyond GFC to build workforce capability and capacity for upturn*

National Industry Skills Council, SkillsDMC, has awarded top honours to organisations and industry champions that look beyond the global financial crisis and commit to long-term workforce development.

The annual SkillsDMC Chairman's Awards recognise individual and enterprise contributions to industry and assisting successful operation of performance-related staff development and training. Winners include an overall company winner and individuals from each of the five industries represented by SkillsDMC; Coal, Metalliferous, Drilling, Quarrying and Civil Infrastructure.

"This year, the awards recognise those in the resources and infrastructure industry that are looking beyond the current global financial crisis to build skills capability and capacity for the future," says Des Caulfield, SkillsDMC CEO.

The 2009 company award went to Rio Tinto Iron Ore for its training and development initiatives with indigenous employees, critical senior roles and trades. The industry 'champions' recognised in each sector were; Gabrielle Deschamps of Boral Construction Materials, Trevor Gosatti of Vortex Pipes, Greg Lane of the Queensland Resources Council, Tim O'Neill of Rio Tinto Alcan (Gove), and Craig Oldfield of Gorey & Cole Drillers.

"The winners in each industry sector have shown long-term commitment to workforce development. Their efforts have helped to strengthen the industry's workforce, increase productivity and combat critical skills gaps," Caulfield says.

The winners were announced at last night's annual Chairman's Awards dinner; a part of the 2009 SkillsDMC national conference. The event focused on industry solutions to surviving the global financial crisis, and saw the official launch of the industry's first rationalised training package; streamlining six different packages into one.

The new training package increases the portability and recognition of skills across all five sectors; providing employers with a new structure to efficiently recruit and train staff Australia-wide. The package will affect over half a million industry employees and thousands of companies across the country.

The event also featured addresses from Minister for Resources & Energy, The Hon. Martin Ferguson AM MP; Warren Mundine, NTSCORP CEO; and international special guest Patrick Conway, Director of Social Inclusion for Training and Employment Authority, Ireland.

The full winners list of the 2009 Chairman's Awards is detailed below:

Category: Company Award

Winner: Rio Tinto Iron Ore

In recognition of its commitment to training and workforce development

Category: Quarry Award

Winner: Gabrielle Deschamps

Organisation: Boral Construction Materials Limited

In recognition of her long-term support for staff development in the quarrying industry

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Category: Civil Award

Winner: Trevor Gosatti

Organisation: Vortex Pipes Limited

In recognition of his long-term support for staff development in the civil infrastructure industry

Category: Coal Award

Winner: Greg Lane

Organisation: Queensland Resources Council

In recognition of his long-term support for staff development in the coal mining industry

Category: Drilling Award

Winner: Craig Oldfield

Organisation: Gorey & Cole Drillers Pty Ltd

In recognition of his long-term support for staff development in the drilling industry

Category: Metalliferous Award

Winner: Tim O'Neill

Organisation: Rio Tinto Alcan (Gove)

In recognition of his long-term support for staff development in the metalliferous mining industry

SkillsDMC would like to congratulate all entrants and winners.

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About SkillsDMC

SkillsDMC is the national industry skills council for the drilling, mining, quarrying and civil infrastructure sectors. SkillsDMC works with industry stakeholders and enterprise to assess the skilled personnel organisations need now and up to 10 years ahead. It provides tools, research and competency-based training resources to ensure the skills-short mining and infrastructure enterprise can build knowledge, skills and performance to ensure safety, quality and to deliver to market demand.

