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Media release:

More traditional land owners join the Prominent Hill mine workforce



Seven trainees of the 2009 OZ Minerals Prominent Hill Pre-employment Training Program have successfully graduated and are now working on the mine site.

This was the fifth Prominent Hill Pre-employment Training Program and was specifically organised for the Antakarinja community, who are the traditional owners of the area around Prominent Hill. Seven trainees successfully completed the program and have been placed in a number of roles in the Environment, Exploration, Resource Development, Geology, HR and Training departments. Roles include an environment technician trainee, human resources officer, pit technician and core-farm technicians.

“The Pre-employment Training program continues to be a successful partnership for Prominent Hill since it commenced three years ago. The 2009 program in particular strengthens our relationship and ongoing commitment to the local Antakarinja community. Having as many local and indigenous employees as possible helps to build a loyal, engaged and culturally adept workforce whilst delivering the added benefit of employment at the mine being shared with local towns and communities.” Mick Wilkes, Executive General Manager Operations.

Since the launch of the Prominent Hill Pre-employment Training Program in 2006, five groups of trainees including 42 successful graduates have successfully completed the program and taken up roles at Prominent Hill. The graduates all come from local areas including Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Oodnadatta and Port Pirie. The Program allows local indigenous and non indigenous people who have never worked in the mining industry an opportunity to gain an understanding of and some skills for a job on a mine site. Successful graduates receive a Certificate II in Metalliferous Mining - Open Cut and a job at Prominent Hill. The fifth Pre-employment Training Program was a partnership between OZ Minerals Prominent Hill, TAFE-SA (Port Augusta Aboriginal Access Unit) and Complete Personnel.

Work has already commenced on the sixth Pre-employment Training Program which will be specifically targeted towards other groups in regional South Australia

For further information please contact

Nancy Bellistri

Communications Officer

T 61 3 9288 0249

M 61 0418 993 252

Nancy.bellistri@ozminerals.com

About OZ Minerals

Australian based miner OZ Minerals owns and operates the high quality new Prominent Hill copper-gold mine in South Australia. The Company is also exploring around the prospective Prominent Hill area for further copper-gold deposits and in Cambodia and Thailand for base and precious metals deposits.

The Company's primary focus is the stable and successful operation of Prominent Hill and the pursuit of its future development and expansion. OZ Minerals is a company in a strong position. OZ Minerals has a strong balance sheet, a team of highly skilled mining industry professionals and a commitment to Respect, Integrity, Action and Results.

The Prominent Hill copper-gold mine is located 650 kilometres north west of Adelaide and 130 kilometres south east of the town of Coober Pedy in the Gawler Craton of South Australia. Prominent Hill is Australia's newest major copper mine producing its first copper-gold concentrate in February and ramp-up to full production is proceeding successfully.



Four students from the Pre-employment Training Program David Willis, Tim Gepp, Adrian Gepp and Corey Amos pictured with Mick Wilkes, Executive General Manager Operations, at the graduation presentation.



Members of the fifth Prominent Hill Pre-employment Training Program pictured with staff from OZ Minerals and lecturers from TAFE SA.