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Media Release:

International visitors explore mining in WA

Nine international representatives from the Institute of Mineral Resources Engineering at RWTH Aachen University in Germany recently explored the Premier Coal mine and got a firsthand experience of the mining operation.

The excursion was part of an exploration tour of mining operations around Western Australia with visits to the Pilbara region and Collie mine site. The group included a professor and a lecturer and seven mining engineering students from the German university.

The guests were welcomed onsite with a safety briefing, taken on an extensive tour of the open cut pit, the Coal Handling Plant and viewed the workshop. They then sat down with members of the Premier Coal team to discuss the resources sector in Australia.

Julian Lassen from The Institute of Mineral Resources Engineering, RWTH Aachen University said, "We got a great insight into coal mining in Western Australia. The comparison with German lignite mining was particularly impressive. In Germany, the soft lignite is mined continuously using bucket wheel excavators. At Premier Coal, the harder coal is extracted discontinuously using ripping and blasting technologies and is loaded with fascinating rope shovels. The intensive commitment of Premier Coal to reforestation and the restoration of habitats for plants and animals was also very impressive."

The Institute of Mineral Resources Engineering (MRE) emerged in 2015 from the mining institutes BBK1 and BBK3. Mining Engineering was established in 1880 as one of the first institutes at RWTH Aachen University. The MRE today educates mineral resources engineers and participates in inter and multidisciplinary research on an international level.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was thrilled to show off the mine to the international guests.

"We are always happy to help educate mining students on the practical operational activities at a coal mine. They had lots of questions and were interested in seeing and experiencing the different areas of the operation.

"As well as discussing the operational activity, we were also able to share and showcase our environmental and rehabilitation projects.

"It was great to meet the educators and future mining engineers who are very interested in working in this field. We hope we helped bring learning to life for the students," said Braedon.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia's largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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