

## SAFETY ALERT

# Fatalities prompt collision avoidance workshops

### ■ WORKSHOPS PROMOTE PROXIMITY DETECTION

Michael Mills

The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy yesterday announced a series of two-day safety workshops to raise awareness of collision avoidance technology, following an increase in the number of serious injuries and fatalities involving vehicle and machinery collisions.

MINING DAILY understands the Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy, Stephen Robertson, will make a statement today supporting the conferences.

The workshops will aim to promote the merits of proximity detection and collision avoidance safety systems in reducing the risk of fatalities and injuries in both underground and surface operations.

The Queensland Department of Mines and Energy is also inviting coal and metalliferous mine operators to share their experiences with



A utility cab was recently crushed beneath a projecting 'tow hitch' at the rear of a low-loader.



and without the technology.

Most recently, the Department issued a safety alert on 17 April 2009, after a fatal collision involving a light vehicle and a large low-loader.

A contractor was fatally injured at an open cut coal mine when he drove his utility into the rear of an empty 200 t low-loader travelling slowly in the same direction.

The utility cab was crushed beneath a projecting 'tow hitch' at the rear of the low-loader.

According to the report, the low-loader driver was unaware of the collision and continued on to his destination.

The safety alert noted there was no apparent evidence that the condition of the vehicle or excessive speed contributed to the incident.

The workshops will be held at the Windmill Motel, Mackay on 3 and 4 August, the Blackwater International Coal Centre, Blackwater on 11 and 12 August, the Rydges Hotel, Townsville on 1 and 2 September and the DPI Conference Centre, Toowoomba on 7 and 8 September.

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## TAKEOVER BID

# Avoca boosts offer for Dioro

Paul Hayes

**AVOCA RESOURCES** has increased its takeover offer for Dioro Exploration, the company announced to the Australian Securities Exchange.

Avoca said it has increased its offer of one Avoca share for every 2.82 Dioro shares to one for every 2.4, valuing Dioro at \$0.75 a share.

The increased offer represents a premium of 19% to the closing price of \$0.63 for Dioro shares on Friday July 3, but falls well short of the recent expert report from KPMG

which valued Dioro at \$1.89 a share.

Avoca has attacked the valuation as too high, saying it has "no meaningful correlation" to Dioro's pre-bid price.

The new offer also extends the deal's expiration date by a week from July 14 to July 21.

According to Avoca chairman Robert Reynolds, the offer is a positive for both parties.

"As Dioro's largest shareholder with a 14.95% shareholding, Avoca is in a unique position to achieve a positive outcome for both Dioro and Avoca shareholders upon suc-

cessful completion of our offer," he said.

"Both sets of shareholders will then participate in a mid-tier Australian gold producer of scale and with significant growth potential."

Dioro has urged shareholders to reject Avoca's bid since it was first made in May.

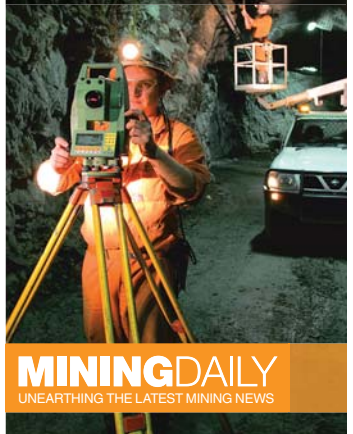
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## EDUCATION

### Program tackles engineer shortages

Michael Mills

**COFFEY MINING** is collaborating with Melbourne University to address a decade long shortage of skilled workers in the mining engineering sector.

The Masters in Mining Engineering program was launched at the start of the 2009 academic year and is designed to offer people with an engineering background a pathway to high level positions within the mining sector.

Coffey Mining Associate Geologist/Engineer Dr John Smith said the sector has suffered from a lack of specialised mining engineers for a long time.

Smith is also a lecturer in the 'Soil, Rock and Tailings Mechanics' subject.

"It is vitally important for the future of the mining industry that there is a highly skilled and capable pool of talent to draw from, in good times as well as slow times," he said.



Students at Melbourne University.

The course includes subjects in mineral economics, risk and safety management and mine planning methods.

According to Dr Smith, Coffey Mining is keen to contribute to an improvement in the number and ability of specialised mining engineers in the long term.

Coffey Mining CEO Dan O'Toole said it is important to recognise that the fundamental drivers of the mining sector skills shortage are still with us, despite the slow down in the sector associated with the global financial crisis.

## RIO TINTO

### Rio Tinto sheds Alcan asset

Paul Hayes

Rio Tinto has agreed to the sale of its Alcan Packaging Food Americas division for US\$1.2 billion, the company announced in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange.

The asset sale is part of a greater plan by Rio to reduce its debt level by divesting non-core assets.

Rio took on US\$38 billion in debt when it bought Canadian aluminium maker Alcan in 2007.

According to Rio Tinto chief financial officer Guy Elliot, the asset sale is the first major move in a strategy to reduce the financial liabilities from Alcan.

"The sale of the Food Americas division is the first significant step in reducing the asset portfolio acquired with Alcan," he said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## THE AUSIMM

### AusIMM issues life ban

Paul Hayes

The Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) has announced a former chief executive of Canada's Southwestern Resources has received a lifetime from the organisation.

The AusIMM banned John Paterson after he admitted fraud and insider trading charges to Canada's British Columbia Securities Commission (BCSC).

The penalty, which is the most severe the AusIMM can hand down, is a very uncommon one, chief executive Michael Catchpole told MINING DAILY.

"It is most unusual for such a severe penalty to be administered and for the matter to then be made public," he said.

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### 5.9% growth in WA Index

Michael Mills

The rebound in Western Australia's mining sector has continued in June, helping to drive a 5.9% rise in the Deloitte WA Index.

The result continues the strong gains in the Index since February, including five consecutive months of growth to date in the market capitalisation of WA's top 100 ASX-listed companies.

[Top Performers, according to the Deloitte WA Index](#)

Last Month	This Month	Long Company Name
1	1	Woodside Petroleum Ltd
2	2	Wesfarmers Ltd
3	3	Fortescue Metals Group Ltd
4	4	Paladin Energy Ltd
6	5	Equinox Minerals Ltd
5	6	Aquarius Platinum Limited
7	7	Centamin Egypt Limited
8	8	United Group Ltd
10	9	Extract Resources Ltd
11	10	Aquila Resources Limited

Deloitte Perth Managing Partner Keith Jones said the Index rose by \$6.7 billion in June.

"This means the WA Index has climbed from a low of \$72.4 billion in November 2008 to \$118.6 billion at 30 June 2009," Jones said.

According to Jones, the growth in the WA Index has again been primarily driven by the rebound in the mining sector, which increased by \$4.6 billion in June.



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## COMMODITY PRICES AS AT 3:23 AM 07/07/2009 AEST

Commodity	Price (USD\$)	Change	% Change	Last Update
<b>GOLD (COMEX)</b> August 2009 (\$US per Troy oz.)	923.80	-7.20	-0.77%	07/07 3:29 AM
<b>ALUMINIUM</b> June 2009 (\$US per lb.)	0.74	-0.02	-2.94%	27/06 3:24 AM
<b>SILVER (COMEX)</b> July 2009 (\$US per Troy oz.)	13.24	-0.17	-1.27%	07/07 3:24 AM
<b>PALLADIUM</b> September 2009 (\$US per Troy oz.)	242.65	-9.35	-3.71%	02/07 2:59 AM
<b>PLATINUM (NYMEX)</b> July 2009 (\$US per Troy oz.)	1,147.00	-46.30	-3.88%	03/07 3:04 AM
<b>COPPER (COMEX)</b> July 2009 (\$US per lb.)	2.26	-0.04	-1.87%	07/07 2:59 AM

## CURRENCY AS OF CLOSE 06/07/2009

Currency	Last	Change	▲ ▼	% Change
\$AUD/\$USD	0.7974	0.0007	▲	+0.0879%
\$AUD/EURO	0.5703	0.0003	▲	+0.0521%
\$AUD/£GBP	0.4897	0.0018	▲	+0.3706%
\$AUD/¥JPY	76.0161	-0.4910	▼	-0.6417%
\$AUD/\$NZD	1.2528	-0.0124	▼	-0.9814%
EURO/\$USD	1.3982	0.0005	▲	+0.0358%
\$USD/¥JPY	95.3300	-0.7000	▼	-0.7289%

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# Conferences, seminars & workshops

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Event submissions can be emailed to [ozmining@reedbusiness.com.au](mailto:ozmining@reedbusiness.com.au)

## Queensland Coal & Energy 15 & 16 July 2009

### Brisbane Marriott Hotel

Attendees will hear from senior decision makers in the coal industry, end-users and top analysts, who will all provide informative insights into how best to survive in current market conditions. The key question on the extent to which the economic slow down has affected the Australian coal sector will also be examined.

■ 02 9080 4307  
[enquiries@informa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@informa.com.au)

## The fundamentals of good mine rehabilitation – achieving better outcomes

### 29-31 July 2009

### Charters Towers, QLD

This short course aims to address the fundamentals of good mine rehabilitation practice throughout northern Australia. The need for such a course was identified by leading industry members as a priority, particularly for younger, less experienced personnel charged with responsibility for rehabilitating sites disturbed by mining or

other extractive industries.

■ ACMER  
 07 3346 4054  
[l.goss@acmer.uq.edu.au](mailto:l.goss@acmer.uq.edu.au)  
[www.acmer.uq.edu.au](http://www.acmer.uq.edu.au)

## BULKEX 2009 Bulk Materials and Powder Handling Exhibition

### 4 - 6 August 2009 Brisbane Convention Centre & Exhibition Centre Queensland

BULKEX 2009 will include two high profile, international conferences for all professionals and experts involved in bulk materials. It is for those in the business of providing the latest technologies, products and services to companies looking for solutions to bulk materials, powder and particulates handling in the following industries.

■ BULKEX 2009  
 Harvey Stockbridge  
 02 9080 4067  
[harvey.stockbridge@informa.com.au](mailto:harvey.stockbridge@informa.com.au)

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## South Australia Future Energy

### 17 & 18 August 2009 Adelaide Hilton

South Australia has the most diverse generation in Australia and is actively encouraging further energy production to meet projected shortfalls of 300-400 megawatts in the next 3-4 years, with a total shortfall of 1200 megawatts expected in the next 10 years.

■ 02 9080 4307  
[enquiries@informa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@informa.com.au)

## International Mining Geology Conference 2009

### 17 - 19 August 2009 Sheraton Hotel Perth

The conference will explore geology, mining operations, rehabilitation and environmental aspects of mining and mineral exploration, some of the global issues the mineral industry is facing and the impacts of these issues in Australia.

■ AusIMM  
 03 9658 6123  
[conference@ausimm.com.au](mailto:conference@ausimm.com.au)  
[www.ausimm.com.au](http://www.ausimm.com.au)