



# Online mentors push women in resources work

WHETHER they are based on the Pilbara's offshore mega-projects or within the remote coalfields of Central Queensland, women working across Australia's vast resource sector can now benefit from the industry's first dedicated virtual mentoring program.

Launched by The Australian Women in Resources Alliance, the AWRA e-mentoring program is connecting experienced mining, oil and gas professionals with women in the earlier stages of their careers.

This innovative online portal is delivered by resource industry employer group AMMA with support from the Australian Government under the National Resource Sector Workforce Strategy.

AMMA director of group services Tara Diamond said the first round of e-mentoring partnerships had commenced, with both men and women mentors providing guidance to women seeking to further their resources careers.

"The AWRA e-Mentoring Program is a key part of AWRA's wider strategy to increase the participation of women in resource jobs from the current 15.2% to 25% by 2020," Ms Diamond said. "The remote locations and non-traditional work schedules typical of Australia's diverse resource industry often make it difficult for career-driven women to connect with experienced industry mentors.

"The AWRA e-Mentoring Program now delivers this mentoring opportunity through a structured, supportive online portal designed to assist women to succeed in the resource industry.

"The first round of mentees and their rigorously matched mentors will be inducted into the program today and guided through a nine-month mentoring process."

The e-Mentoring program is backed by the AWRA



**AMMA's Tara Diamond**

**AWRA aims to support 105 mentees and mentors.**

leadership committee comprising industry bodies, academics and resource employers including OZ Minerals, Newcrest Mining and Caltex Australia.

"AWRA aims to support 105 mentees and mentors through the program in the first year," Ms Diamond said.

"The online platform will guide participants through important steps such as goal setting, developing an action plan and problem solving, while communicating online and by telephone."

Ms Diamond said AWRA e-Mentoring was another new program in a wider suite of initiatives.