

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **“Women are a source of innovation, skills” – Anglo American boss tells conference**

ONE of Australia's leading mining CEO's has today told 200 conference delegates that increasing the number of women in the workforce is a critical business imperative for resource industry organisations.

Speaking at the Australian Women in Resources Alliance (AWRA) Conference today, CEO Seamus French said attracting more women employees is a top corporate priority for the world 'Top 3' coal exporter.

With more than 2000 new jobs in its Queensland project pipeline alone, Mr French told the packed room at Melbourne's Crown Conference Centre that women are a source of fresh ideas, innovation and skills for Anglo American.

“Traditionally, finding people for our future projects would mainly focus on the very competitive and limited Queensland underground coal mining pool and this approach just isn't going to cut it anymore,” Mr French said at today's 2013 AWRA Conference.

“Diversity gives us the opportunity to grow the resourcing pool rather than fishing it dry and to make this happen we are creating an inclusive culture which embraces all employees, no matter their gender, ethnicity, age or religion.”

Anglo American's Metallurgical Coal business employs 4500 in Australia and, under Mr French's leadership, has improved the representation of women in its total workforce by 32 per cent since 2010. Today, 12 per cent of its mine site employees are women and the target is to grow this to 20 per cent by 2018.

“There is not one quick fix so our diversity action plan has covered educating our leaders, setting targets for the number of women we recruit, building partnerships with schools and universities and supporting the women we already employ through mentoring and development opportunities,” Mr French said.

The 2013 AWRA Conference is the first-ever national event dedicated to increasing women's participation in the resource industry.

With the industry's collective goal being to increase the proportion of women in resource employment from 15 per cent to 25 per cent by 2020, presentations from leading resource companies and diversity experts explored practical solutions to the attraction and retention of women and issues surrounding workforce practices and organisational change.

AWRA is an initiative facilitated by national resource industry employer group AMMA (Australian Mines and Metals Association) in partnership with the Australian Government.

The AWRA Conference comes a day before the resource industry's biggest annual conference – the 2013 AMMA National Conference. [Click here](#) for the program.

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