8/2/2019

BEST Employment LTD has been working closely with Whitehaven Coal for over 3 years, in this time we have helped with input and delivery of the Whitehaven Aboriginal Pre-Employment Program, this Industry recognized award winning program has helped many Indigenous job seekers be able to achieve their dreams of working in the mining sector and helping change their lives and families for the better across the local towns of Gunnedah, Narrabri, Moree, Tamworth, Inverell, Glen Innes and Tenterfield.

Whitehaven is unique in the fact that not only do they have an Indigenous reconciliation plan in place, but also have set targets to meet that they as a company has set to ensure local indigenous job seekers can gain employment with them. Whitehaven also offers the employment opportunities to all others and has a real commitment to helping alleviate disadvantage in the community.

BEST Employment also appreciates the employment opportunities in the local surrounding areas that has thrived due to the money that is spent from those employed with Whitehaven Coal or from the businesses that are providing services to the mines. We have seen an increase of employment in civil construction, Hospitality, Housekeeping, Revegetation work, Engineering, Fabrication and labour hire companies.

BEST Employment is excited about the Vickery project as it will also offer more employment and opportunities for job seekers from a number of groups such as Long term unemployed, Disability, Youth, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, mature aged and retrenched workers returning to the workforce.

I also represent the NSW Business Chamber (New England/Northwest) on the regional advisory committee and I am also deputy chair of the Greater Northern District Skills Committee and both are always speaking positively of the opportunities and economic growth of the Liverpool shires due Whitehaven Coals presence.

We also see other towns suffering economically from the drought due to relying on the cotton and grain industry, whilst this also affects the area, it has held strong from the Whitehaven presence with many new businesses opening in the Gunnedah area.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Walters

Business Development Manager

BEST Employment LTD