



PRESS RELEASE

Cloncurry, 18 August 2016

Ernest Henry awarded for safety innovation

Ernest Henry Mining was pleased to accept the Highly Commended trophy at the annual Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference Innovation Awards held on the Gold Coast on the evening of 16 August.

The conference is one of the largest health and safety conferences in the southern hemisphere and is an initiative of the Queensland Resources Council, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Simtars, the Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union, and the Australian Workers' Union. It provides an opportunity for industry leaders to share knowledge, best practices and learn about emerging technology to ensure all workers make it home safely at the end of every shift.

Ernest Henry had two innovations listed as Top 10 Finalists in the awards, but it was C Crew's Simba Longhole Drill Rod Handling Tool that was recognised with a Highly Commended for its contribution towards improving safety in Ernest Henry's underground mine.

Neil Beavis, Underground Development Superintendent, explained how the tool reduces manual handling and associated muscle strain type injuries, when he presented the innovation to the 580 conference delegates in attendance.

"We operate up to three long hole drills at Ernest Henry and operators are often required to add rods to the drill string or replace broken rods in the field," Neil said.

"In the past this involved carrying a 40 kilogram drill rod up a ladder before lifting it into the drill carousel by hand. Several operators experienced soft tissue injuries to the shoulder or neck, so four of our employees explored a number of alternatives to make the process safer, eventually designing and fabricating the Drill Rod Handling Tool.

"The tool fits easily and quickly onto the drifter of the unit when required and it uses the existing rod handling system on the machine to perform the task, making the whole job a lot safer."

The tool has been fitted on all three production drill rigs at Ernest Henry and there have been no injuries associated with the changing of rods on these rigs since it was implemented.

Aaron Harrison, Underground Mine Manager, is extremely pleased with this result.

"The safety of our workforce is paramount and we encourage the entire team to identify and implement improvements to make our workplace as safe as it can be," Aaron said.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone involved on their efforts to develop ideas from the operating environment into solutions that have achieved real improvements to safety in our underground mine.

“This is achievement enough, but to then have two of our safety innovations in the Top 10 at these awards and the Drill Rod Handling Tool recognised with a Highly Commended, is testament to our underground workforce.”

The Drill Rod Handling tool was developed by Luke Smith - Operator, Chris Fey - Boilermaker, Sam Powell-Thomas – Diesel Fitter and Darren Saunders – Supervisor.

Anglo American Grasstree Mine won the Innovation Awards and took out the People’s Choice prize for its Portable Chilled Air for Underground Mining innovation.

Ends

Image	Caption
	<p>Neil Beavis - Underground Development Superintendent, accepts the Highly Commended Award on behalf of Ernest Henry Mining.</p>
	<p>The Top 10 Finalists at the Queensland Mining Industry Health and Safety Conference Innovation Awards included two entries from Ernest Henry.</p>
	<p>The Drill Rod Handling Tool improves safety by reducing manual handling and lifting during the production drilling process.</p>
	<p>L to R: Chris Fey - Boilermaker, Luke Smith - Operator, Darren Saunders - Supervisor and Sam Powell-Thomas – Diesel Fitter, were presented with a site Innovation Award for their Drill Rod Handling Tool invention by Aaron Harrison - Underground Mine Manager, at a morning safety meeting earlier this year.</p>

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Notes to editors

About Glencore

Glencore is one of the world's largest global diversified natural resource companies. As a leading integrated producer and marketer of commodities with a well-balanced portfolio of diverse industrial assets, we are strongly positioned to capture value at every stage of the supply chain, from sourcing materials deep underground to delivering products to an international customer base.

The Group's industrial and marketing activities are supported by a global network of more than 90 offices located in over 50 countries. Our diversified operations comprise over 150 mining and metallurgical sites, offshore oil production assets, farms and agricultural facilities. We employ approximately 190,000 people, including contractors. For more information visit www.glencore.com.

About Ernest Henry Mining

Ernest Henry Mining is a copper and gold mining and processing operation located 38 kilometres north-east of Cloncurry in north-west Queensland, Australia. Ernest Henry began commercial production in March 1998 as an open pit mining operation and transitioned to underground mining in December 2011, with operations commencing from a kilometre-deep underground hoisting shaft in June 2014.

Mined ore is processed at our on-site concentrator and copper concentrate containing gold is transported by road, using local contractors, to Glencore's copper smelter in Mount Isa for smelting to anode. The anode is then railed to Glencore's refinery in Townsville for refining to cathode. The copper cathode is delivered by road, rail and ship to domestic and export customers.

Our operations provides work for around 500 employees plus contractors, consisting of both locally-based and fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) personnel.