

Australian Industry **ozWELD**

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WTIA National Diffusion Networks
Project (NDNP) funded by the
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Governments and industry



AusIndustry

SUCCESS STORY NUMBER M09: TAKING TRAINING TO AUSTRALIA'S MINES –
WTIA's welding technology course for engineers utilised by remote mining locations

Introduction

Australian Companies are finding it increasingly important to control the fabrication, construction, maintenance and repair costs of their plant. Knowledge of welding and associated fabrication technology is vital to achieve such control.

Many companies are utilising short, focussed training courses for employees to expand their technical capabilities.

WTIA has developed a three-day course in welding technology. It provides technical personnel understanding in the design, specification, fabrication, inspection and testing of fabricated structures.

Completion of the course provides personnel with some of the knowledge essential to specify, manage and control construction and maintenance projects from a welding and materials perspective.

WTIA runs the course on both a public and in-house basis. In order to provide the highest delivery standards attendance is limited between six and twelve individuals.

The standard course syllabus consists of twenty-four modules delivered over three days. For in-house delivery the WTIA can tailor the modules to meet specific requirements.

The course is suitable for technical personnel including Designers, Draughtsmen, Production and Workshop Managers, Project Managers, Quality Managers and Engineers.

Mining Industry

Two members of the WTIA's Mining Industry Sectoral Project, Pilbara Iron and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) recently requested courses to update their broad base of engineering personnel on the latest technologies, techniques and management of welding.

In-house courses were tailored to address specific company materials, welding processes, specifications and technical issues.



Photo courtesy BMA

BMA

BMA is Australia's largest coal producer and a leader in the international coal industry. With a permanent workforce of over 4,000, many in remote Queensland locations, the company puts great value on continuing professional development, and technology innovation.

The very successful tailored course for 7 BMA maintenance engineers held recently in MacKay placed emphasis on developing welding procedures for the repair of fatigue damaged equipment and reviewing the role of post-weld fatigue improvement techniques on such repairs.

Pilbara Iron

Travelling to Tom Price in north west Western Australia, Ben Gross, WTIA Technology Manager presented modules to 8 engineers covering identification of wear mechanisms and selection of appropriate hardfacing materials. The determination of pre-heat for a wide variety of applications was discussed in detail with a review of current welding methods and recommendations for improving productivity.

With 90% of its 3,600 employees based in the remote Pilbara, the concept of bringing high level professional tailored training into the area proved appropriate and cost effective.

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