



PICTURED at Monday's meeting with the NSW Minerals Council are, clockwise from left, Tania McShane (BHP Billiton), Geoff Kidd (Coalworks), Joe Clayton (Shenhua Watermark Coal), Tim Muldoon (Whitehaven Coal), Daniel Martin (Maules Creek Coal), Steve Harper (Coalworks), Melanie Layton (Shenhua Watermark Coal), Stephen David (BHP Billiton), Lance Muir (Maules Creek Coal), and Sue-Ern Tan (NSW Minerals Council).

Coal miners meet to talk new ad campaign

COAL explorers and producers in the Gunnedah Basin have met to discuss a new advertising campaign being driven by the NSW Minerals Council.

Acting CEO Sue-Ern Tan yesterday visited Gunnedah to explain the industry's new education and awareness initiative, which highlights how the state's miners are leading the way in "world class" mining.

Ms Tan said the main message is to inform the community about some of the facts they may not know about mining through a website and advertisements in local newspapers and on TV.

"NSW miners have unparalleled experience and expertise, which is why our technical experts were called on to help during the Chile and Pike River mine rescues. We've developed world-leading virtual reality safety training and we're regenerating land for native plants and animals," Ms Tan said.

"We acknowledge that mining does have an impact on the environment and we are striving to keep it to a minimum by using water more efficiently, improving the way we rehabilitate the land and by minimising the dust that comes from our mines."

Among those to attend yesterday's meet-

ing included representatives from Maules Creek Coal, Coalworks, BHP Billiton, Shenhua Watermark and Whitehaven Coal.

Ms Tan said one of the mining facts the community is unaware of relates to the use of water.

"We understand that people are concerned about the region's water resources. Water is precious to us too," she said.

"We account for just 1.4 per cent of the

state's consumption and we recycle up to 80 per cent of the water we use.

"It's also why we are working with other industries, government and the community to get a better understanding of the water resources in the Namoi catchment."

The NSW Minerals Council said mining has provided a major boost to communities economically.

"As well as jobs, wages spent in mining com-

munities and billions that are spent with local suppliers, we return \$1.2 billion a year to the NSW Government in royalties. That's enough to fund 13,000 nurses or 11,000 teachers every single year," Ms Tan said.

The NSW Minerals Council also met with Mayor Adam Marshall and praised some of the community initiatives being driven by some of the region's coal miners including Shenhua's Community Fund.