

Partners kick off training scheme

A NEW partnership between Shenhua Watermark and New England North West Group Training will give eight lucky school students an opportunity to pursue a career in mechanical, electrical and metal fabrication as part of a school-based trainee program.

Shenhua's communications manager Melanie Layton said the schools-based program was the first step in a long-term training and employment strategy for the company.

"Shenhua is committed to employing locally and training locally," Ms Layton said.

"There is a demand for skilled workers which is only



TRAINING FUTURE: Justin Constable from New England North West Group Training, with Shenhua Watermark Coal's communications manager Melanie Layton. The two companies have established a school-based training program to encourage locals to take up the study of mechanical and electrical trades.

going to increase in the coming years, so it is imperative programs are in place now to ensure we have the employees ready when the demand hits."

While this initial program targets school students, Shenhua will be looking at a variety

of training and employment programs in the future that will also target mature-age professionals, women and youth.

"We need to ensure we have the right training programs in place to not only attract the

right people, but ensure people are trained for positions that will be required in the coming years," Ms Layton said.

If you are a year 10 student and interested in a career in mechanical, fitter/machinery

or metal fabrication, the first round of apprenticeships are planned to start training next semester.

Money from the Community Fund will be used to fund these school-based traineeship programs.