



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Women in Resources National Awards highlight talent

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The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy is playing a part in fostering gender diversity and enhancing opportunities for women in the workplace. SACOME has recently collaborated with other state resource sector bodies to facilitate the first annual *Thiess Women in Resources National Awards* (WIRNA).

While women's involvement in resources has previously been acknowledged through awards at a state level, the WIRNA is the first national recognition of women in the industry.

Initiated by the Queensland Resources Council and driven by a passionate team of governing bodies, these awards provide a forum for the recognition and promotion of Women in the Resources sector, celebrating and endorsing their contribution to the industry.

Jason Kuchel, Chief Executive SACOME said "SACOME and the resources sector understands the significance of attracting women to our industry as important in improving the performance of individual businesses through having a diverse gender balance."

Nominees across Australia demonstrated passion and dedication to the resources industry, while endorsing a gender balanced work environment. The winners were recognised across five categories and were announced on September 2 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

South Australia produced five finalists at the National Awards:

**Rebecca Holland-Kennedy, Managing Director, PepinNini Minerals Ltd** - was selected for her outstanding initiatives in community and social inclusion. Co-founder of PepinNini Minerals Limited, Ms Holland-Kennedy's company sponsors a scholarship at The University of Adelaide, has won awards for Indigenous engagement, supported many cultural events and has contributed to the funding of sporting facilities in local communities.

Ms Holland-Kennedy has always encouraged women to work within the resources industry and this is reflected by the numerous women geologists that PepinNini has sponsored from all over the globe and throughout her years within the resources sector.

PepinNini as a company values diversity and recognises the benefits it can bring to the organisation's ability to achieve its goals. These values have been demonstrated by the company's achievement of a female to male employee ratio of 50:50.

**OZ minerals and Beach Energy Limited** were shortlisted for their unique cross-industry collaborative partnership dedicated to creating women in leadership. Both companies have female representation of 24-30 percent, well above the resources sector average of 14 percent.

**Hayley Perkins, Shipping Manager, Arrium Mining** - was nominated for her passion and skill in the mining sector. Landing a manager position at such a young age, Perkins is an inspiration to young people around Australia and hopes to promote the variety of jobs available to women in resources.

**Jo Barron-Perry, Senior Mining Engineer – Mine Growth, BHP Copper Olympic Dam** - was nominated for her instigation to the creation of several state-based and regional women in mining groups and for providing the

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mentoring and guidance required to ensure their ongoing success. Barron-Perry's organisation and time management skills were recognised as truly inspirational.

**Thiess Women in Mining Strategic Initiatives** was nominated by both NSW and SA for its strategy and action supporting and empowering women in the industry. The company is on track to achieving a 20 percent female employment target by 2020.

The collaboration with the WIRNA is just a small component of an overall gender diversity strategy by SACOME to increase the participation of women in the mineral and petroleum resources industries.

SACOME's partnership with the *Women in Resources South Australia* committee, which was brought on board as a formal SACOME committee in late 2013, is reaping rewards. The WinRSA Strategic Plan is grounded on **Building capability, Communication, and Programs and events** to deliver on the primary objective of promoting the involvement and contribution of women in the resources industry to the industry itself and the wider community.

A full list of winners and finalists can be found [here](#)



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