

Media Release



VTEC class head to Christmas Creek after graduating from training course

Port Hedland, 11 June 2013: Eleven Aboriginal people from Port Hedland will soon be working at Fortescue Metal Group's Christmas Creek mine following the completion of an eight-week course at the company's Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC).

Port Hedland Mayor Kelly Howlett awarded the graduates a Certificate II in Surface Extraction delivered through the Pilbara Institute and Aus-Com Training Services. They will now move into full time employment as Trainee Mobile Plant Operators.

Fortescue Director External Affairs Isak Buitendag congratulated the graduates as they embark on a career in the resources sector. "Our VTECs in South Hedland and Roebourne are changing lives by providing training that leads to full time employment," Mr Buitendag said. "All of us at Fortescue are proud of today's graduates and we wish them all the best at Christmas Creek."

Fortescue established its first VTEC in South Hedland in 2006 and in Roebourne in 2010. Since then, they have provided training, employment and support to more than 1500 Aboriginal people.

Fortescue's Manager VTEC Operations Doug Anderson said the graduates worked well as a team and developed a close bond during their training sessions in Port Hedland and in Perth. "They have developed new skills, achieved some great results and are looking forward to putting these into practice," Mr Anderson said.

Fortescue's iron ore operations in the Pilbara are providing opportunities for local Aboriginal communities through employment and business development.

Aboriginal people comprise more than 11.7 per cent of Fortescue's direct workforce and the company has awarded \$651 million in contracts to Aboriginal businesses across its operations and growth projects.

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