

# Auger Mining Project at Millennium



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*Coal auger mining east face of Millennium Pit*

Identified last year as an opportunity during the continuous improvement workshops at site, the Coal Auger Project at Millennium is now underway.

The auger has been operational for three weeks and mined approximately 15,000 tonnes of Leichardt coal.

The project will see the auger mine two endwall faces that are unavailable to traditional truck and shovel methods due to limitations with creek easements and a Mesa structure with prohibitive strip ratio.

The auger sequence has been integrated into the mine schedule to eliminate interaction with the existing truck and shovel fleet and provide uninterrupted access to the available working horizons.

The project will continue for approximately five months and will deliver an additional 100,000 tonnes of ROM coal that will be processed through the RMIJV wash plant.

The auger drives individual flights (1.9m diameter drill bit) into the coal seam and has the capacity to penetrate up to 200m depending on geological conditions. The coal brought back onto the auger unit is discharged on the side of the unit by conveyor. The coal is then managed and stockpiled by a front end loader.

As part of the Project Excellence priorities Millennium is identifying additional locations to increase the scope of the original augering contract to improve the mines cash flow position.