



Women urged to dig deep to break into mining industry

THE mining industry is booming and its time for Townsville women to jump on board.

Key stakeholders from major resource companies, industry representative bodies and government departments came together last week for a full-day intensive session aimed at increasing the participation of women in the resource industry.

Australian Women in Resources Alliance Executive Director Minna Knight said all parties are stepping up the bid for greater attraction and retention of women.

"As the skills shortage continues to put pressure on employers, AWRA is one of the most important and exciting developments that is happening

within our industry and the presence of a wide range key industry stakeholders today further confirms that," she said.

"There is an enormous opportunity to tackle the national labour and skills shortages and allow the projected investment in our industry to reach its potential by tapping into an under-utilised pool of skilled employees and building strength through workforce diversity."

The AWRA project, which is partially funded by the Australian Government, has also secured the support of AMMA Board Director and Oz Minerals CEO Terry Burgess, who has signed on as the leader of the AWRA Industry Champions.

Mr Burgess's role will be to lead the industry by example and en-

courage fellow resource employers to implement the best practices and procedures to engage and retain talented women workers.

"There are great opportunities for women in our industry and definitely at OZ Minerals," said Mr Burgess.

"Women remain under-represented in our industry and

increasing female representation is something OZ Minerals is focused on.

"We have formalised our commitment by setting measurable targets that we report externally against in our annual sustainability report."

Townsville women interested in a career in the resources industry can visit www.amma.org.au for more information.

