

# Women in Resources Alliance ramps up

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**WimNet is an important stakeholder in the Australian Women in Resources Alliance (AWRA), which is rolling out the sector's great advancements in gender diversity across a national platform. Here, AWRA Project Officer Marie Henry discusses the latest developments.**

One of the greatest outcomes from the AMMA 2012 National Conference in late May was the exceptional support AWRA received from its existing and new membership base.

This full-day intensive session was aimed at increasing the participation of women in the resources industry and attracted key executives from major resource companies, industry representative bodies and government departments.

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 of key industry stakeholders at this event further confirmed that.

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 underutilised pool of skilled employees and building strength through workforce diversity.

The meeting of the AWRA leadership group at the AMMA 2012 National Conference in Perth saw all parties step up the bid for greater attraction and retention of women.

The initiative, 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 help and encourage fellow resource employers to implement the best practices and procedures to engage and retain talented women workers.

The AWRA project was launched in November 2011 and has since united other regional initiatives under a national banner. The movement is currently designing practical tools to help employers break down cultural and operational barriers to women employees.

A major part of discussion moving forward will be the focus on

'engagement for change'. This concept develops the most effective ways to engage further with the industry, build on the current momentum and get the tools employers need (particularly SME employers) to make a difference in this area.

With the full support of the industry behind AWRA, it's now appropriate that we step up this evolution of our workforce and start implementing real solutions at the coalface.

To find out more about AWRA and how you can be involved, contact [Marie.Henry@amma.org.au](mailto:Marie.Henry@amma.org.au) or visit [amma.org.au/awra](http://amma.org.au/awra).



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