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## **Resource Industry taking Indigenous capacity to the next level**

A meeting of resource industry employers on the Gold Coast today will be challenged to consider investing in privately operated schools where Government run schools are failing to produce the required results in rural and remote locations.

This is just one of the proposed ways to increase the levels of Indigenous employment being put to the AMMA 2011 National Conference - a gathering of the nation's leading resource industry professionals.

AMMA Director of Public Affairs, Minna Knight, said proactively seeking to improve educational outcomes in rural and remote communities is one of a number of proposals to be discussed at a panel session today on enhancing Indigenous participation in the resource industry.

"Australian resource industry employers face significant shortages of skilled labour over the next few years," Ms Knight said.

"Obviously, many employers are looking at the latest initiatives being successfully employed to develop their capacity and draw on the local community to source their future workforce needs.

"A number of resource industry and supplier companies who are leading the way in terms of introducing innovative and sustainable Indigenous employment programs will be sharing their experiences with fellow delegates today."

Ms Knight said the meeting would also hear from company representatives who had established successful joint-ventures with local Indigenous companies.

"In addition to building capacity within the local community, resource industry employers are increasingly looking to opportunities where successful commercial joint ventures can be established with the local community," Ms Knight said.

"Those joint-ventures which are operating successfully can be seen as a model for not only similar operations, but also a benchmark for expanded operations in the future," Ms Knight said.

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