Mining terminology – geological terms

**Anthracite Coal**

Coal of the highest rank being a high carbon content and a low volatile matter. It has a bright black lustre.

**Bituminous Coal**

A general term descriptive of coal intermediate in rank between sub-bituminous and semi-anthracite and including coking coals. Bituminous coals may be either bright or dull and are usually banded in appearance.

**Sub-Bituminous Coal**

Coal of a rank between lignite and bituminous.

**Black Coal**

A general term for coal of either sub-bituminous, bituminous or anthracite rank.

**Brown Coal**

Coal of the lowest rank, of a soft friable nature and high moisture in the air-dried

sample.

**Lignite**

A brownish-black coal composed of vegetable matter which has been altered more than in peat, but less than in sub-bituminous coal.

**Volatile Matter**

The part of coal that gives it its ability to burn as they contain mostly hydrocarbons

**Brassy tops**

Pyrites **–** Iron sulphide, a chemical dangerous in mines because of its tendency to ignite spontaneously.

**Anticline**

A upward(convex) folding of the rock strata.

**Aquifer**

A bed of rock strata that contains water. The presence of aquifers must be taken into consideration when designing any mine

**Bed**

Stratum of coal or other sedimentary deposits.

**Fault**

Break in the continuity of a coal seam or rock strata. There are many types of faults.

**In Situ**

In the natural or original position with references to rock strata.

**Joint**

A discontinuity in the rock strata where there is no sign of relative movement.

**Outcrop**

Coal that appears at or near the surface

**District**

A coal mining area in Australia. The NSW the districts are Northern Southern and Western. There is also the Newcastle District

**Greta Coalfield**

The field including both the South Maitland and Greta-Branxton Coalfields.

**Greta-Branxton Coalfield**

The northern part of the Greta Coalfield, centred on the towns of Greta and Branxton; developed earlier than the South Maitland Coal Seam

**South Maitland Coalfield**

The larger part of the Greta coalfield centred on Kurri and Cessnock.

**Seam**

A bed of coal laid down between beds of rock

**Coal measure**

Coal measures are a group of seams that are the same age.