

**EDITORIAL**

## **\$90mil 'toy' highlights Coast riches**

INDIA'S insatiable appetite for "black gold" - the coal in our hills - has been on show in a very public way over a couple of days.

On Sunday, Gujarat NRE workers and their families got up close and personal with a new \$90 million longwall miner. Yesterday, hundreds of other guests invited from across the community also had a look at what appears to be the world's biggest Tonka toy.

The unveiling was significant for a number of reasons.

For a start, it heralds a new era for Gujarat as it literally ploughs head-on into its expansion plans.

India cannot get enough coal and cannot get it quick enough. And Gujarat, headed by Wollongong's favourite adopted son, Arun Jagatramka, is ramping up its production schedule to capitalise on the opportunity.

We should not underestimate how well placed the Illawarra is in the global coal market. The region offers great accessibility compared to many other international coalfields, we have good port facilities and the quality of our coal cannot be beaten.

As for the clout Gujarat carries in Australia and the respect for the company locally, look at yesterday's roll-out of politicians - former and present, and from both sides of politics.