

# CASE STUDY

**Improving safety** management is a **continuous theme at Premier Coal,** and in 2009/10 some important steps were taken to continue to **keep safety top of mind.**



## Making an award-winning safety system better

Premier Coal has used its SafeMAP safety system, which won awards in 2000 and 2001, to guide its safety performance. However, improving safety management is a continuous theme at Premier Coal, and in 2009/10 some important steps were taken to continue to keep safety top of mind.

### **New safety accreditation**

In December 2009, Premier Coal achieved certification to the Australian and New Zealand standard AS/NZS 4801:2001. The comprehensive accreditation process requires a high level of detailed documentation and evidence that employees are aware of their responsibilities and involved in the identification of risks and work practices to eliminate those risks. AS/NZS 4801:2001 accreditation is a major achievement that will improve mine safety and align our safety

systems to the proposed changes for national consistency in safety and health legislation and the National Mine Safety Framework.

### **Gold Safe Way Award**

After a series of self-audits, random desk-audits and supporting documentation, Premier Coal earned a Gold Award in the 2010 IFAP/CGU Safe Way Awards. These awards recognise organisations who achieve a high level of safety standards, and can demonstrate commitment to safety through excellence in training, established systems and procedures, and achievement of safety objectives.

### **Roller change out support frame**

Premier Coal's Maintenance Crew has developed a Roller Change-Out Support frame, a simple innovation

that dramatically reduces manual handling – and the potential for injuries.

The mine's 350 tonne hydraulic shovels need their rollers replaced at least every three months, a high-risk and time-consuming process that until now has required stands to be manually hauled into position while the shovel is in the mine. The Roller Change-Out Support frame uses a forklift to reduce set-up time to less than an hour: eliminating the need for manual handling, and slashing the time taken to change rollers by one quarter.

This innovative thinking is strongly encouraged by Premier Coal, and the frame was recognised as a Finalist in the Chamber of Minerals and Energy - Health and Safety Awards 2010 and narrowly missed the People's Choice Award.