# NOT WHAT IT "SEAMS"

**K. W. Bayly**[1]

[1] NSW Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services, Division of Resources and Energy, Coal Advice, 516 High Street Maitland 2320

**ABSTRACT**

The "F" Ply – a pervasive tuff marker unit – is the key to regional correlation of the basal coal seams of the Western Coalfield. The "F" Ply has a distinctive gamma spike in down-hole geophysical logs, and is recognised in drill core from east of Ulan into the Hunter Valley and as far south as the Lithgow region.

In the Western Coalfield, the basal Lithgow Coal is characterised by being largely free from tuff bands, and having a sandstone roof when not coalesced with the overlying Lidsdale Coal. Recent exploration conducted by Mineral Resources in the Rylstone area has reaffirmed the regional picture of the thinning and onlapping/non-development of the Lithgow Coal towards the basin margin.

The clear trends in the development of the Lithgow Coal and the stratigraphic position of the "F" Ply have implications for the existing correlation of seams currently mined immediately south of Rylstone at Charbon Colliery and Haystack Mountain, 30 km to the south at Airly Mountain, and a further 25 km southeast at Ivanhoe North and Cullen Valley Mine.

The revised regional coal seam correlation demonstrates that it is not the Lithgow Coal that has been the mined section for the past 100 years at Charbon, Haystack Mountain and Airly, but the Lidsdale Lower seam.