

Polytechnic welcomes industry leader to School of Mines

Tai Poutini Polytechnic's (TPP's) new Director – School of Mines, Peter O'Sullivan, plans to use his industry contacts and professional connections to ensure TPP is the mining trainer of choice in the wider New Zealand minerals industry.

Peter is recognised as a leader in New Zealand's minerals industry and brings a wealth of experience in environmental safety, regulation development and industry professional standards to his new role.

"I am really looking forward to this role and utilising my extensive networks to develop the mining training programmes on offer at TPP so that it becomes the mining trainer of choice across New Zealand."

Peter is a West Coaster and is enthusiastic about the future of the industry, both on the Coast and around New Zealand. He sees higher-level training as a potential growth area for the Polytechnic and is keen to investigate all the possibilities.

"Previously, there have been opportunities on the Coast for people to secure a well-paid operational job in the mines, but if you were interested in a management or specialised role you would have to go to Australia to get the training. I'm keen to investigate some cadet-style programmes that lead to higher-level training for those that wish to progress."

Peter acknowledges that the mining and extractives industry is going through a period of consolidation, but says there is still strong demand domestically and is positive about the future. He says the quarrying and aggregate sector is particularly buoyant right now and there is scope for TPP to become more involved in health and safety training as the industry comes to grip with new and emerging mining regulations and guidance.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started and making a positive contribution. TPP has been working in this area for some time and it is doing a superb job. I am starting from a good, solid platform and am looking forward to building on that," Peter says.

TPP Chief Executive Allan Sargison says it is a real coup for the Polytechnic to secure Peter in the role, after he left TPP five years ago to work for Minerals West Coast.

"We are incredibly pleased to welcome Peter back to the Polytechnic, where we know he will have a significant impact on the training programmes we provide. He is highly regarded by industry and has excellent contacts within the New Zealand minerals sector and we look forward to having him on board."

For more information contact:

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