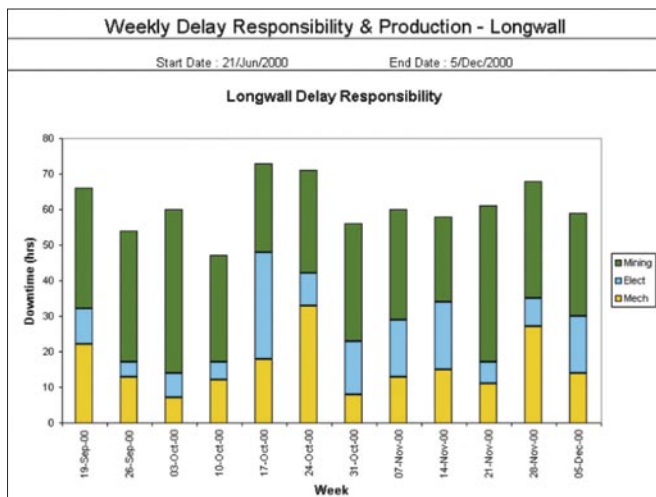


## MineSuite Underground In The Illawarra

BHP Billiton Illawarra produces coal from five underground longwall operations in the area north-west of Wollongong in NSW. Due to the structural complexity and geochemical diversity of the Bulli and Wongawilli coal seams, mining can be problematic. The different coals are stockpiled, and blending is a crucial factor affecting profitability.

Management at BHP Illawarra last year decided to install the MineSuite production monitoring and reporting system across all of their underground operations, after success with the product at West Cliff and Appin collieries.

Advanced Systems Integration (ASI), part of the Maptek Group, conceived MineSuite 10 years ago in response to a market need for a widely applicable system that could integrate production monitoring and reporting from various processes in an operation.



The nature of underground longwall mines makes the capture of relevant data difficult. MineSuite acquires data from programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and other instruments controlling and collecting equipment data. This is typically fed into a SCADA system that manages plant and equipment in real time, and usually logs periodic data and alarms to a database. MineSuite is ideal to interface to these existing control systems and transform logged data into information to provide comprehensive reporting.

A second option is to manually enter data into the system. Once data for a shift has been captured, MineSuite allows it to be edited or changed through the Shift Editor, which consists of the Graphical User Interface (GUI), the text selection panel and the data entry panel.

The GUI represents the shift data as coloured rectangles on a timeline, giving personnel a view of all the processes and equipment monitored, as well as the assignments and delays entered for the shift. The text selection and data entry panels offer a more detailed look at the data for a particular process.

MineSuite reports and output formats are user configurable and soft coded. Cross-database reporting allows an operation with MineSuite installed in several underground sites and preparation plants to develop reports using information from the multiple operations.

Another strong feature of MineSuite is its ability to automatically publish corporate reports in html format and place them on the company intranet for easy viewing.

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