

Rotowaro Mine



Location: Near Huntly, North Island, New Zealand.
Client: Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd
Duration: June 2004 – December 2011 (current contract)



Total service provision

Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd is a state-owned enterprise, which operates as a commercial company but with only one shareholder – the New Zealand Government. Its Rotowaro Mine is an old operation, which was first developed as an underground mine in 1915.

HWE Mining and then Leighton Mining (Leighton Mining bought HWE Mining in 2006) has been working with Solid Energy since 1998. At Rotowaro Mine, Leighton Mining undertakes the mine planning, surface operations and materials handling and processing operations. Annual production of more than 1.6 million tonnes of coal comes from two separate pits and several different seams. At current rates of production it is expected mining will continue until 2013.

The Rotowaro operation is the largest mining operation in New Zealand with overburden removal exceeding 43 million tonnes a year. Leighton Mining operates 11 90-tonne dump

trucks, 10 190-tonne dump trucks and seven excavators ranging in size between 110 tonnes and 400 tonnes.

Leighton Mining operates and maintains Solid Energy's coal processing plant, annually processing some 1.6 million tonnes of coal, to meet the quality and quantity specifications of Solid Energy's local customers. We also operate and maintain the coal washing plant, annually producing 360 kilotonnes of high-quality washed product.

More than 200 people work at work at Rotowaro, working 10 – 11 hour shifts, with mixed rosters for overburden removal and coal mining. Most employees live locally, a significant number of whom were employed at the operation prior to HWE Mining taking over the mining contract in 1998.