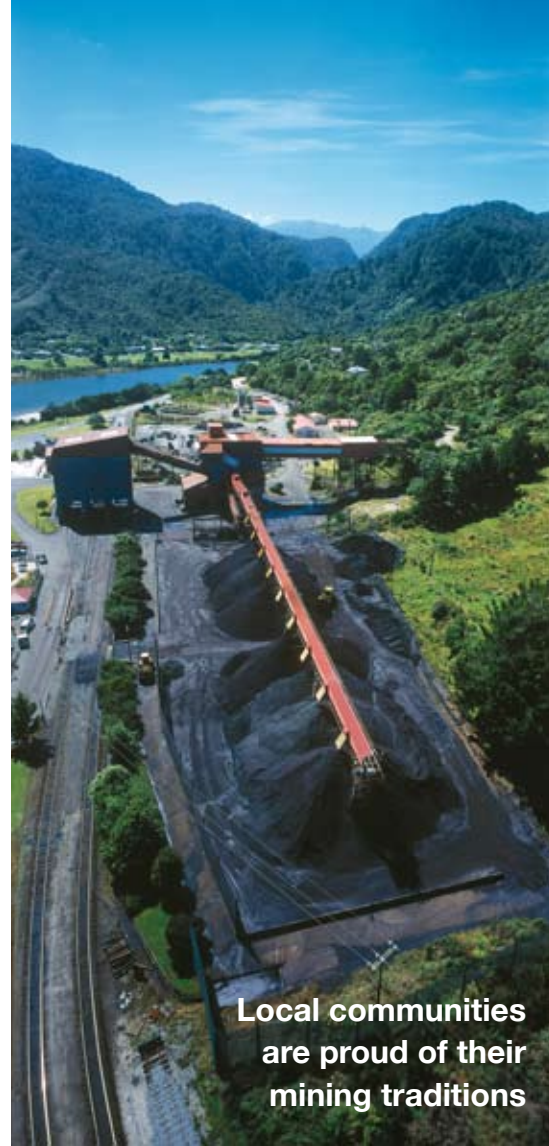


The West Coast is New Zealand's mining heartland

The West Coast is New Zealand's most important minerals region. Our long and colourful mining history dates back to the first European settlement during the gold rushes of the 1860's and the subsequent discovery of large deposits of high grade coal and other minerals.



Local communities are proud of their mining traditions

Gold and coal, as the founding resources of our region, have shaped the development and character of our communities. The rest of New Zealand sees the 'The Coast' as the nation's true heartland (much like The Outback is to Australians) and 'Coasters' are famous for their resilient spirit, rugged individualism, hospitality and humour. Working in our minerals industries, you'll find yourself welcomed into the local communities.

A large number and diverse range of mining enterprises operate on the West Coast.

These range from large corporations to smaller privately owned mines. The region's mining roots go deep, and a number of West Coast families still own and operate gold and coal mines.



Variety of minerals

The West Coast is New Zealand's primary producer of exported hard coking coal, and a significant producer of gold and cement. Rounding gravels are also produced for local use. Potential exists for evaluation and development of occurrences of molybdenum, tin, tungsten, rutile, ilmenite, barite, platinum, fluorite, feldspar, serpentinite, talc, rare earths, zircon, clays, and silica sand.



Since the 1870s the West Coast has been New Zealand's most important minerals region.

