Mining Surveying

Mine surveyors are involved in very aspect of a new mining operation, this includes initial exploration, initial construction of mine operations, on-going mining works and rehabilitation of site after mining is completed.

Mining surveyors use various instruments including GPS, GIS, EDM and laser scanning, to make their measurements of surface and underground works so as to prepare accurate plans for future planning of the mine, the determination of resource volumes and for safety. Safety is the biggest issue in any mine and it is the surveyor who plays the lead role by accurately locating potential hazards e.g. flooded tunnels. Plans prepared by mine surveyors become very important historical documents for not only future mining of the site but also for various future developments and environmental planning.

As the work of a mine surveyor is so important for the operation of mines in NSW and the rest of Australia, mine surveyors are required to be registered to undertake mine surveying as are cadastral surveyors are required to be registered for cadastral surveying. In NSW registration is controlled by the Board of Surveying and Spatial Information. The registration process involves the examining of potential mining surveyors in all aspects of mine surveying including the taking of accurate measurements, the preparation of accurate plans and the understanding of all legislation that deals with mines and mining operations.

Mine surveyors help find precious and non precious metals and minerals by measuring mines, tunnels and other underground or surface works. As with cadastral surveying, a mine surveyors map of an underground mine can be used by surveyors for many years to come and becomes a vital piece of evidence in mine rescue operations.