Conversion of Historical Geological Data into CoalLog format

CoalLog – The Borehole Data Standard for the Australian Coal Industry has become widely accepted and used throughout the industry since its introduction in 2012. The Geological Surveys in both New South Wales and Queensland are also rapidly moving to a position where all coal exploration data submissions will need to be in CoalLog format. However, a major issue with adopting the standard for current exploration is that it is now quite rare for an exploration area in Australia to have no previous digitally encoded geological data and one usually wants to include this data in with the current exploration data. To do this though the data from the previous exploration programs all need to be in the same format. The solutions we have seen to this issue are:

1) continue encoding any new data in the same format as the historical data,
2) not incorporating the historical data at all with the new data,
3) just incorporating the seam picks from the historical data with the new data, though even this simple option will often require some conversion of historical seam codes,
4) incorporating the seam picks and lithology types from the historical data with the new data. This requires conversion of just the historical lithotype codes and possibly some seam codes,
5) converting all fields in the historical data into the new format.

Considering how much it would cost to recollect the information in the historical data, it makes economic sense to try and obtain as much information from this data as possible, that is to convert all its fields into the new CoalLog format. We offer a very cost-effective mechanism to achieve this. To date, we have converted the data for over 7000 boreholes into CoalLog format and have developed processes and software to ensure that this is done both extremely efficiently and with minimal loss of information. We extract from clients' data, not only CoalLog header, drilling, geology and defects data but also CoalLog geologists, casing, water flow and point load data.

To make it easy for clients to budget for the conversion we charge a set price of $3 per hole plus GST to convert their headers, drilling and geology data and a further $1 per hole

plus GST to convert their geotech data. These prices are based on the assumption that the data has been fully validated, as it will be if it is currently stored in LogCheck. Where data is not totally clean, it will need yourself or us to first clean it. With our skills with Excel macros and other programming utilities, we can also offer very cost-effective solutions for this cleaning.

We have developed systems to convert most of the commonly used historical formats, but if your data is not in one of the formats we have already converted, there may be an additional setup cost of up to $1600 plus GST.

Where your historical is not in digital format, we can also offer very cost-effective solutions to encoding it into CoalLog format data.