

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Wollongong Coal's Commences Longwall Operations

*Russell Vale Colliery*

**May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

Wollongong Coal has recommenced longwall operations at its Russel Vale Colliery in longwall 6, and marks the commencement of the 72<sup>nd</sup> longwall panel for the operation.

Wollongong Coal Chief Operating Officer Dave Stone said that is was an important milestone in demonstrating the longterm sustainability of an operation that has operated for 127 years successfully and responsibly within our community.

"This is on the back of the previously announced launching of a USD\$630million refinancing package. There may be some short term recalibration of the business to accommodate the approvals timeline though we are confident in the mid to long term sustainability and viability of the business"

"Furthermore we are working with the Department of Planning and other key Stakeholders on the approval process for the UEP. We acknowledge concerns with regards to potential environmental impacts and in response to feedback from the community and regulators we have further refined the proposal to ensure the ongoing protection of our local environment."

"Wollongong Coal is confident that when presented the revised UEP project the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC) will recognise the merits of the Project and agree that with the strict proposed operating conditions we can unlock the economic and social benefits of the project for the region, while ensuring the ongoing protection of the local environment." Stone said.

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For further information on the UEP Project please visit the Wollongong Coal website via [www.wollongongcoal.com.au](http://www.wollongongcoal.com.au) for contact information and detailed facts sheets.

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*Wollongong Coal Limited (ASX Code: WLC) owns and operates Russell Vale Colliery and Wongawilli Colliery in the Southern Coalfields Region of New South Wales. The Russell Vale Colliery was established in 1887 and has provided ongoing employment and support for the local community for 127 years.*

*Wollongong Coal is developing to become one of the most modern and progressive coal mines in Australia. Wollongong Coal's proximity to Sydney and Port Kembla Coal Terminal make it a commercially competitive organisation. Port Kembla is located at a close proximity of about 15 KMs from both the Collieries and well connected via both rail and road.*