

# PRESS RELEASE

## Proposed Modification to Russell Vale Colliery

*Minor modification for ongoing coal mining operations being considered by the Department of Planning and Environment.*

**Wollongong, October 29, 2014:** A minor modification to the planning approval for Wollongong Coal's Russell Vale Colliery is being considered by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

Russell Vale Colliery Modification 2 is seeking to modify the existing planning approval to permit a further 400m of underground mining, this will allow mining operations to continue through to 31 December 2015. This modification is essential for the ongoing future of the mine by permitting mining continuity and to allow the development work and other already approved ancillary mining activities to be completed. In the last 12 months, over \$250M has been invested in Wollongong Coal to support future operations.

Wollongong Coal Chief Operating Officer David Stone said the approval of this minor modification was a key component, ensuring the continuity of operations at the Russell Vale Mine.

"This minor modification will ensure the ongoing operations at Russell Vale and allow Wollongong Coal to maintain its current permanent employee level of 254 whilst a future proposal for Russell Vale Mine is being considered by the Department of Planning and Environment," Mr Stone said.

"Rigorous scientific and technical studies have been completed on this proposal with all planned mining operations subject to best practice environmental monitoring in conjunction with relevant government agencies.

"We have a long term strategy to continue our operations in the region and continue producing metallurgical coal for the global steel industry in excess of another quarter of a century.

“Wollongong Coal is committed to an economic and environmentally sustainable operation which will continue long into the future and this minor modification is critical to this objective in the short term.” Mr Stone said.

The Department of Planning and Environment has recommended the proposed modification be amended subject to conditions. The Department's assessment report stated:

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*“The modification is considered to be very minor. The extraction area of the first 400m of Longwall 6 is wholly within the existing approval project area and the panel layout has been designed to minimise the surface and other environmental impacts from subsidence, primarily by providing a significant buffer from the Cataract Reservoir.”*

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For more information on Russell Vale Colliery's existing approvals and proposed modification and detailed Fact Sheets please visit the Wollongong Coal website [www.wollongongcoal.com.au](http://www.wollongongcoal.com.au) or contact the site office on (02) 4223 6800.

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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.*