

## NEWS RELEASE



**Release Time** IMMEDIATE  
**Date** 15 June 2022  
**Release Number** 21/22

### **Coal divestment review update - BHP to retain New South Wales Energy Coal**

BHP today announced that it will retain New South Wales Energy Coal (**NSWEC**) in its portfolio, seek the relevant approvals to continue mining beyond its current mining consent that expires in 2026 and proceed with a managed process to cease mining at the asset by the end of the 2030 financial year.

The decision follows BHP's review of its lower grade metallurgical and energy coal assets that was announced in August 2020 and has also resulted in the divestment of our interests in Cerrejón and BHP Mitsui Coal (BMC) in January and May 2022 respectively.

A trade sale process for NSWEC was conducted however the process did not result in a viable offer. Assessment of the resource economics, geotechnical profile and future investment requirements determined that continued mining in the near term and moving to a closure in 2030 provides the optimal financial outcome when compared to alternate options.

Continuation of mining to the end of FY2030 will afford eight years to work with our people, state and federal governments and local communities in the Hunter Valley region on a transition approach that supports long-term community sustainability.

Plans to continue operating NSWEC to FY2030 are subject to obtaining relevant approvals to enable mining beyond the current consent, which only provides approval for mining until 2026. Work is underway to prepare the application for the relevant approvals with the New South Wales and Australian governments to support mining until 2030. This will also include plans for closure of the asset, including rehabilitation and determining the most appropriate post-mining land use. It is expected that continued work on rehabilitation will take 10 to 15 years following the cessation of mining. The provision for closure of the mine as at 31 December 2021 was approximately US\$700 million.

Minerals Australia President, Edgar Basto said "We thoroughly reviewed potential options for NSWEC including divestment and future investment requirements. Seeking approval to continue mining until 2030 avoids closure in 2026 and enables BHP to balance the value and risk of those considerations and our commitments to our people and local communities."

NSWEC Vice President, Adam Lancey said "We will work with our people, local business partners, Traditional Owners and local and state governments to operate safely and productively, prepare for closure and sustainable rehabilitation of the site, and ensure the pathway to closure is managed in a way that meets community and regulatory expectations."

### About NSWEC

The New South Wales Energy Coal (**NSWEC**) asset comprises the Mt Arthur Coal operation, which is located near Muswellbrook, New South Wales. Mt Arthur Coal is operated by Hunter Valley Energy Coal, an entity ultimately owned by BHP Group Limited.

Further information on BHP can be found at: [bhp.com](http://bhp.com)

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