

11 March 2020

Media Release:

Employees show their community spirit during fire crisis

Showing a commitment to their local communities during the bushfires, local Yancoal employees stepped away from the coalface to help fight the recent ferocious bushfires.

Employees volunteered from Yancoal Australia's Moolarben Coal, Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) and Stratford mine sites, demonstrating their commitment to reducing the impact of the fires that were ravaging their communities.

Reece Oldfield from Yancoal's Moolarben Coal mine showed true bravery, helping save three houses during the Reedy Creek fires in December.

Reece Oldfield said, "I have a strong passion for the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and helping those in need. During the fire crisis, many residents expressed how grateful they were that we were there trying to protect their properties.

"It was such an intense and deeply upsetting time for everyone and I'm really thankful to Moolarben Coal for giving me the flexibility to take time off work and be there for our community," said Reece.

Mark Halton from Yancoal's MTW mine is the Brigade Captain at Howes Valley RFS and helped fight the Gospers Mountain and Hawkesbury fires.

Mark Halton said, "I have worked for MTW for 35 years and never seen fires like the recent event. We were firefighting on Christmas day, Boxing day and over the New Year.

"It was overwhelming how well I was treated, I would have taken annual leave if necessary but I didn't need to, MTW were terrific. So many people worked tirelessly to help save our community and I was proud to be part of that team," said Mark.

Yancoal Australia donated \$500,000 directly to the NSW RFS, which will be distributed to the brigades to help provide additional training, fire shed equipment and fire shed maintenance.

Moolarben Coal General Manager Steve Archinal said, "We were all saddened by the extreme destruction the recent fires caused. However, a crisis can show the strength of community spirit and we are proud we could contribute at a site and employee level.

"During the fires, one of our sites provided five local fire brigades with specific hose cleaners, which greatly reduced the amount of time brigade volunteers spent scrubbing fire hoses. We also made available some of

our Yancoal-owned residential properties to those that lost their homes and to the fire services as temporary respite accommodation.

“We recognise this is an extremely difficult time for many people and the rebuild process has only just begun. We are proud of our employees who stepped away to volunteer and pleased we could give them the flexibility to do so,” said Steve.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the contribution of our volunteer firefighters this season has been extraordinary, and we’re thankful to employers such as Yancoal for supporting their staff who continue to support their local communities.

“We’re also thankful for Yancoal’s generous donation that will help support local Brigades,” said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

END

Media contact:

Tracy Woodley

Email: tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;