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Media Release:

Well, the last coal train out of Stratford has gone

The team at Stratford Coal has been working to a common purpose for almost 30 years, and they recently reached a significant milestone as the last train of coal left the site.

Since the first train departed the site in July 1995, Stratford Coal has successfully operated an open-cut mine, employed a strong workforce and supplier network, and made a positive difference in the community by investing in local community projects and initiatives.

Due to the exhaustion of commercial coal reserves, Stratford has now ended mining coal. However, despite mining having ended, our people will continue working for around four years, closing down the operations, decommissioning and removing infrastructure, and completing rehabilitation of the site to an approved final landform.

Stratford Coal Operations Manager, John Cullen, was proud of the work completed to reach this important milestone.

“As we work through the decommissioning process, we still believe in the value of the mine, and we are focused on continuing land rehabilitation and exploring potential beneficial uses for parts of the site.

“The actual works to rehabilitate and then maintain and monitor the land to achieve NSW Government sign-off is expected to take between 10 and 15 years, so it is a long-term process.

“We are also continuing to assess the feasibility of the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH), which has been declared as Critical State Significant Infrastructure, for future use of part of the site and have commenced applications for NSW and Federal Government approvals.

“Our people know they are at the centre of everything we do, and I would like to acknowledge, thank, and pay tribute to our mining crews and the people who have worked at the mine over the past 30 years.

“They are an incredible group of people who, every day, have endured the challenging geotechnical mining conditions that Stratford was renowned for.

“Additionally, I extend our gratitude to our suppliers for their invaluable contribution to our success, and to the local community for their continued support of our operation.

“It was a very humbling experience to see the last coal wagon disappear out of sight, however now we look to our new path and journey of closure.

“I believe with the people we have, who have grown with us over the years, we have the right mix of skills, commitment and attitude to make this project both successful and rewarding.

“We will update stakeholders and the local community about the decommissioning, rehabilitation and other land use plans over the coming years,” said John.

Yancoal is committed to supporting its people who are leaving the mine to continue their careers. This includes redeployment opportunities, where possible, to Yancoal’s other operations.

For more information or progress updates please visit www.stratfordcoal.com.au/page/SREH/

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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