

13 March 2025

# Media Release:

## Much needed path built for local historic site

Collie locals and tourists can safely walk, view and enjoy the history of the Wallsend mine site with the construction of a new pathway, thanks to a joint donation between Yancoal Australia's Premier Coal mine and South32's Worsley Alumina operation.

The \$10,000 joint donation between the mining companies and \$3,000 from the Wesfarmers Premier Coal 30 Year Club enabled the construction of the new pathway. It connects the Shire's River Walk to the Wallsend mine site entrances.

Ron Guilfoyle, President of the Collie Retired Mine Workers Association was delighted to officially open the pathway.

"With the Wallsend Underground Mine Site being added to Collie Rail to River Heritage Trail walk as a tourist attraction, we recognised the need to upgrade the path so people can safely view the site. The previous ground was uneven, sandy and unsafe to access.

"We are pleased to officially launch the walkway to anyone who wants to visit the historic Wallsend Underground Mine Site.

"It was a big project involving formwork, concrete, labor, earthworks and sand. We are confident in the construction of the new pathway, it is sturdy and stable and accessible by prams, wheelchairs and bikes.

"We are always exploring how we can continue our work in preserving the historical mine sites in and around Collie and we are thankful to the local miners for their funding to help make this project come to life.

"This is just another attraction as Collie transitions into being a tourist town and we are proud to play a part in that," said Ron.

The Collie Retired Mine Workers Association is a not-for-profit community group that has over 65 members who worked in the mining industry. They meet monthly with the aim of preserving the history of mining in Collie for locals and tourists to the area.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was proud to help fund a historic project.

"The Wallsend mine dates back to 1898 and is an important part of Collie's mining history. As a company, safety is our first priority and this pathway will enable locals and visitors to safely navigate the entrance to the historic site," said Braedon.

South32 Worsley Alumina External Affairs Manager Rod Jones said, “South32 Worsley Alumina understands the importance of supporting the town of Collie to build its reputation as a tourist destination and we welcome the opportunity to ensure that the surrounding area, known for its scenic hiking trails and history, is safely maintained so that it can be enjoyed for generations.”

**END**

**Media contacts:**

*Yancoal*

Tracy Woodley

[tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au](mailto:tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au);

*South32*

Jasmine Green

[jasmine.green@south32.net](mailto:jasmine.green@south32.net);