



# STRATFORD & DURALIE PREPARING FOR CLOSURE

After over 25 years of operation, Stratford & Duralie coal mines are preparing to finish coal extraction activities in 2024. This fact sheet provides information on how Yancoal is preparing for mine closure.

## ■ EXISTING MINING OPERATIONS

Yancoal, through its wholly owned subsidiaries Stratford Coal Pty Ltd and Duralie Coal Pty Ltd, has owned and operated the Stratford Mining Complex (Stratford) and the Duralie Coal Mine (Duralie) since its merger with Gloucester Coal in July 2012.

The two mines are located approximately 100 kilometres north of Newcastle in the Gloucester Valley. Stratford began operating in 1995 and continues to produce semi-soft coking coal and thermal coal for the export market. Duralie operated from 2003 to 2021. Stratford is preparing to finish coal operations in 2024.

Over the next two years, operations and activities will progressively change to reflect this transition to closure.

## ■ PREPARING FOR CLOSURE

Detailed planning, site investigations and technical assessments are currently being undertaken to prepare for mine closure. This includes reconfirming final rehabilitation and closure obligations with government regulators.

Yancoal has also commenced engaging and consulting with stakeholders including site employees and the local community regarding:

- closure activities for the mines;
- likely impacts this will have on employees and the wider community; and
- measures to mitigate these impacts.

## ■ WHY ARE THE MINES CLOSING?

The decision to close Stratford and Duralie is consistent with the planned and approved life of mining for both operations. Coal operations finished at Duralie in December 2021 and Stratford will have exhausted its approved commercial coal reserves in 2024.

## POST-MINING LAND USE OPPORTUNITIES

Yancoal is continuing to investigate beneficial post-mining land uses for Stratford and Duralie, while meeting its commitments to establish areas of native vegetation and pasture.

Yancoal is presently assessing the potential for establishing a Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH), which would initially include pumped hydro energy storage and a solar farm facility. The SREH is an exciting beneficial post-mining land use opportunity that will continue to be developed in parallel with mine closure.

The SREH will be subject to a separate approval process, however it will be integrated with mine closure to ensure efficient re-use of the land while also ensuring Stratford is rehabilitated in accordance with its approvals and to the satisfaction of the government regulators.

More information on the SREH can be found by visiting [www.stratfordcoal.com.au/page/SREH](http://www.stratfordcoal.com.au/page/SREH)

## REHABILITATION PLANNING & PROGRESS

- Rehabilitation of disturbed land has and will continue to be undertaken progressively with mining operations and will continue during mine closure.
- Key rehabilitation activities that will continue after coal operations finish include: bulk earthworks, landform development, infrastructure decommissioning, and revegetation of the final landforms.
- It is anticipated that these rehabilitation activities will take approximately three years to complete beyond the completion of coal operations. As vegetation establishes, a further ten years of monitoring and maintenance may be required to achieve the post-mining land use and final rehabilitation sign-off.
- Yancoal has extensive rehabilitation experience in re-establishing native vegetation and pasture land uses, and has already successfully rehabilitated approximately 450 hectares of land (i.e. shaped, covered with topsoil and revegetated) at Stratford and Duralie.
- Learnings from rehabilitation activities undertaken to date along with industry best practice guidelines will continue to be employed to ensure effective implementation.

## EXAMPLE REHABILITATION



## REHABILITATION CASE STUDY FROM DURALIE

A key post-mining land use objective at Stratford and Duralie is to establish areas of native ecosystem. These areas aim to establish vegetation communities similar to those in the surrounding area and providing for biodiversity connectivity with surrounding land and habitat for native fauna.



- *Photo left: Landform development and topsoil spreading in preparation for planting during 2020.*
- *Photo right: Native vegetation establishment progress in 2022.*

If you would like further information on mine closure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Community Information Hotline: 1300 658 239

Website: [www.stratfordcoal.com.au/page/mine-closure/](http://www.stratfordcoal.com.au/page/mine-closure/)