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# Media Release:

## Austar Stands Down Workforce

The Austar operation has today announced it will commence standing down employees and, where possible, redeploying the majority to other Yancoal-owned underground operations.

This step is being taken as Yancoal awaits the outcome of legal proceedings where it is currently seeking an external merits review in the Industrial Relations Commission of two prohibition notices issued by the Regulator in relation to the Austar underground mine.

“We have worked to redeploy the majority of the Austar workforce to the Ashton, Abel and Moolarben underground mines in the interests of providing continued employment for our people,” said Reinhold Schmidt, Yancoal Australia Chief Executive Officer.

“Until all legal avenues have been exhausted and we can re-enter the mine to move the longwall, we are unable to continue proposed longwall activity.”

Austar will retain skeleton crews to maintain the operation in accordance with compliance requirements.

Unfortunately, as this matter is the subject of legal proceedings, an estimated date for a return to production is currently unavailable.

**End**

### **About Austar:**

Yancoal manages the Austar mine in New South Wales on behalf of Watagan Mining Company Pty Ltd (“Watagan”). Austar currently employs 205 people.

In 2017, Austar achieved total ROM coal production of 2.0 million tonnes and saleable coal production of 1.9 million tonnes.

Watagan is a wholly owned subsidiary of Yancoal Australia Ltd, controlled by a consortium of financiers consisting of Industrial Bank Co. Ltd, BOCI Financial Products Limited and United NSW Energy Limited. Effective 31 March 2016, Yancoal ceased to control Watagan and remains the exclusive provider of mine management, marketing, infrastructure and other corporate support services for the Austar, Ashton and Donaldson assets.

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