

ASX Release | 16 May 2023

## New Acland Stage 3 Update



*NEW HOPE CORPORATION LIMITED*

ABN 38 010 653 844

New Hope Corporation Limited (**ASX: NHC**) (**Company**) advises that late yesterday, Oakey Coal Action Alliance (**OCAA**), represented by the Environmental Defenders Office, launched a new legal challenge against the New Acland Mine Stage 3.

OCAA is challenging the Queensland's Government's decision to grant an Associated Water Licence in the Land Court. OCAA is also seeking undertakings that New Acland Coal cease carrying out operations, including the mining of coal, pending the outcome of the appeal. In the absence of undertakings, OCAA will consider bringing a stay application in the Land Court to prevent New Acland Coal from acting on the Associated Water Licence granted by the Queensland Government.

Whilst OCAA's new legal challenge in the Land Court is against the Queensland Government, OCAA has named New Acland Coal as a respondent to the Land Court proceedings.

New Acland Coal has filed an application in the Land Court for orders to amend certain conditions in the Associated Water Licence which New Acland Coal considers are inconsistent with the terms of other approvals for the mine including the Coordinator General's stated conditions and the Mining Lease for New Acland Stage 3. New Acland Coal's preference would have been to resolve any inconsistencies in approvals terms directly with the relevant Queensland Government departments, however, will follow the Land Court processes in light of OCAA's new legal challenge.

New Hope Group intends to progress the previously announced ramp up of operations at the New Acland Mine while it assesses and responds to OCAA's new legal challenge.

The Company's Chair, Mr Robert Millner, said OCAA's new legal challenge will create anxiety for the local community and for the workforce of over 100 local employees who recently returned to work at the New Acland Mine.

"Less than two weeks ago, New Hope and the local communities around Acland and Oakey celebrated Queensland Government Resources Minister Stewart officially opening New Acland Stage 3 and they have been getting on with the job of resuming operations." Mr Millner said.

---

“The Queensland Government has confirmed that New Acland Stage 3 stacks up environmentally, socially and financially, and has praised New Acland Coal for its focus on community and local employment, and for the success of New Acland Coal’s award winning rehabilitation works over the life of the project to date.

“The Queensland Government Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water originally granted the New Acland Mine Stage 3 Associated Water Licence after extensive review and then subsequently undertook a further extensive, independent review which affirmed the original decision to grant the New Acland Mine Stage 3 Associated Water Licence.

“Despite this, OCAA’s new legal challenge will see New Acland Stage 3 return to the Land Court for a fourth time and New Acland Coal will be forced to spend yet more time and resources in responding to the ‘lawfare’ tactics of OCAA.

“We are hopeful that the Queensland Government can see a way to intervene to prevent yet more litigation in the Land Court.

“New Acland Stage 3 ensures secure jobs in the region and will provide an essential energy product to our trading partners in Asia and domestically, and will bring significant economic benefits for Queensland.”

Local workers, contractors and local businesses will benefit to the tune of \$1billion over the life of New Acland Stage 3.

At the peak of construction, there will be approximately 600 local workers at New Acland Mine. Throughout the life of the project, the permanent workforce will be approximately 400 full-time roles, made up of Darling Downs locals.

(ENDS)

**For more information please contact:**

- Robert Bishop, **Chief Executive Officer**;
- Rebecca Rinaldi, **Chief Financial Officer**; or
- Dominic O’Brien, **Executive General Manager & Company Secretary**.

P: +61 7 3418 0500 E: [cosec@newhopegroup.com.au](mailto:cosec@newhopegroup.com.au)

*This ASX announcement was approved and authorised by the Board.*