



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Austar Mine Application to Sustain 275 Jobs**

The Austar underground coal mine near Cessnock has made application to the Department of Planning to continue its operations for another two decades.

Austar Senior Site Executive Greig Duncan said the extension of longwall operations would sustain around 275 jobs at the mine, as well as 60 jobs in construction.

If the Stage 3 extension is approved Austar will extract up to 3.6 million tonnes of coal a year, which will be processed at the existing Pelton coal handling and preparation plant and taken to the port under existing approvals.

The application also includes construction and operation of new pit-top facilities on mine-owned land off Quorrobolong Road south of Kitchener.

These facilities include an access road, ventilation shafts and fan, bathhouse, workshop, electricity substation, offices and store.

The application under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act will be placed on exhibition for community comment and determined by the Minister for Planning.

**Ends**

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