



Fact Sheet
July 2023

AUSTAR COAL MINE CLOSURE PLANNING & EXECUTION

After over 100 years of operation, Austar Coal Mine announced permanent mine closure in 2021. This fact sheet provides information on how Yancoal is planning for, and executing, mine closure to deliver optimal post mining outcomes.

HISTORY OF MINING OPERATIONS

Austar Coal Mine (Austar) is a deep underground coal mine located approximately 10km south-west of Cessnock in the Newcastle coalfields of NSW. The mine is an aggregate of the former Pelton, Ellalong, Cessnock No.1 (Kalingo) and Bellbird South Collieries.

Mining operations at Austar commenced with the opening of the Pelton Colliery in 1916. The Pelton Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) was constructed in 1960-1961. Underground mining began at the current pit top facilities in 1978 with coal delivered to the Pelton CHPP by an overland conveyor. In 1998, Pelton and Ellalong Collieries amalgamated with Bellbird South and were renamed Southland Colliery.

In December 2004, Yancoal purchased 100% of the Southland Colliery and renamed the operation Austar. Austar was placed in care and maintenance in March 2020 and in February 2021, a decision was made by Yancoal to transition Austar from care and maintenance to closure.

Following the announcement of closure, Yancoal resourced the Austar Closure Planning Team and commissioned subject matter experts to develop detailed studies to inform mine closure.



CLOSURE PLANNING

Austar is currently completing a Pre-Feasibility Study for mine closure, which includes technical studies and site investigations to address closure knowledge gaps and identify preferred rehabilitation and conceptual final landform options that will deliver optimal rehabilitation and closure outcomes at the site.

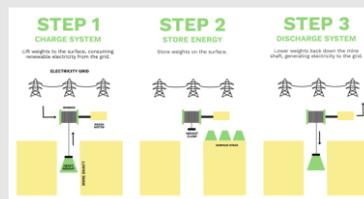
Following the completion of the Pre-Feasibility Study, Yancoal will prepare a detailed mine closure plan to prove the go forward rehabilitation case and develop detailed decommissioning and rehabilitation execution plans.

POST-MINING LAND USE OPPORTUNITIES

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

The final land use options assessment for Austar owned lands has indicated that residential and renewable energy land use opportunities are most feasible for further assessment.

- Green Gravity is conducting a concept study for the installation of Green Gravity technology in ventilation shafts to store and release renewable energy.



- Solar plant / battery storage options for Austar owned land are also being assessed.

REHABILITATION & CLOSURE PROGRESS

While the Pre-Feasibility Study is being completed, decommissioning works to prepare the site for rehabilitation and closure execution are progressing.

Decommissioning Activities

- Underground plant, equipment and services have been recovered and removed from the underground mine.
- Redundant surface equipment is being progressively decommissioning and removed.

Mine Sealing

- On 11 October 2022, the Austar underground mine was sealed, and ventilation ceased. Access is no longer possible, and the mine is gradually flooding.
- The Austar drift entry has been permanently sealed.
- Mine shafts and key services boreholes have been temporarily sealed.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Yancoal has also commenced engaging and consulting with stakeholders including regulators, landowners and the local community regarding:

- closure planning progress
- proposed closure activities and outcomes
- likely impacts on landowners and the community
- measures to mitigate impacts.

DECOMMISSIONING ACTIVITIES

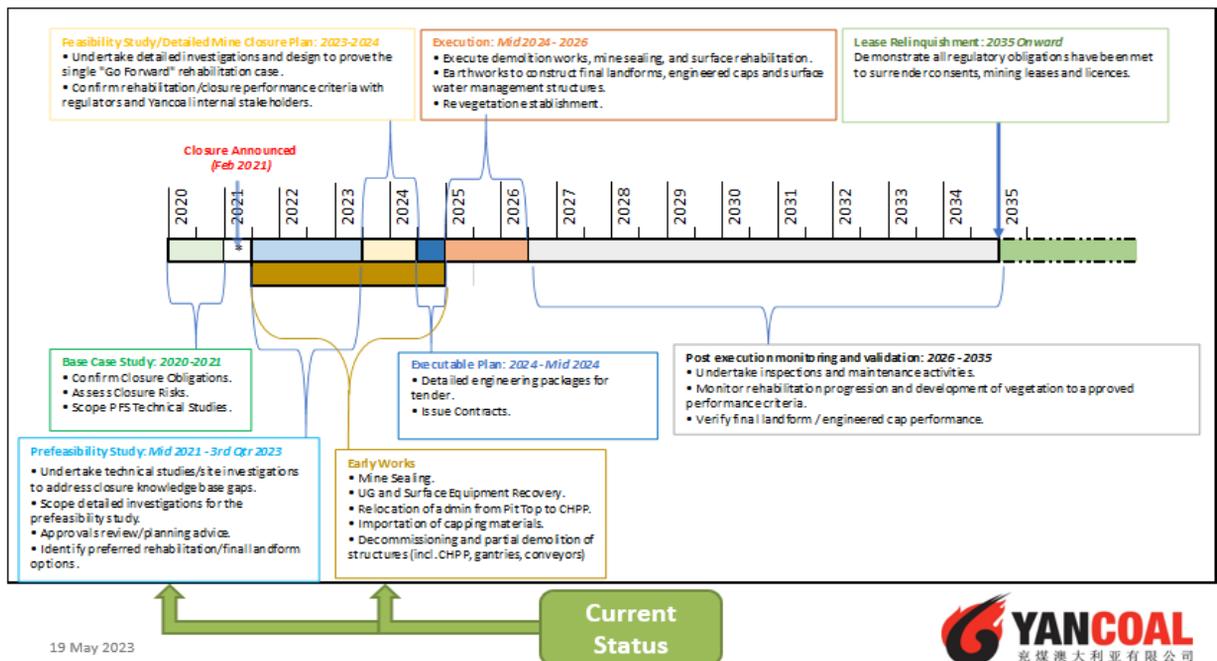


AUSTAR DRIFT ACCESS MINE SEALING



AUSTAR INDICATIVE CLOSURE EXECUTION TIMELINE AND CURRENT STATUS

It is anticipated that rehabilitation and closure planning and execution will take approximately five years to complete beyond the announcement of closure. Following completion of rehabilitation, a further ten years of monitoring and maintenance may be required to achieve the post-mining land use and final rehabilitation sign-off.



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

Austar Community Response Line: 1800 701 986

Website: <https://www.austarcoalmine.com.au/>

