



NEW HOPE GROUP



Christmas Message



NEW ACLAND MINE GENERAL MANAGER DAVE O'DWYER WISHES STAFF AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY A HAPPY AND SAFE FESTIVE SEASON.

And just like that, another festive season is upon us.

The past year has not been without its challenges. With approvals still outstanding for Stage 3, New Hope Group had no choice but to place New Acland Mine into care and maintenance.

This newsletter contains additional information about what the decision means for our staff and the local community, but first and foremost I would like to thank the entire team for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

I would also like to thank the wider Darling Downs community for its steadfast support, particularly local community leaders, sporting groups and landholders who have been vocal and proud advocates of Stage 3 and the benefits it will bring to the region.

As 2021 comes to a close, I would like to wish you and your family a happy and restful holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

Dave O'Dwyer
New Acland Mine General Manager

The Last Blast

A BITTERSWEET DAY

Thursday, 28 October 2021 was a bittersweet day for everyone at NAC, with the team conducting the final blast for Stage 2.

New Acland Mine General Manager, Dave O'Dwyer said it was a day of mixed emotions.

"It's been a tough year for everyone at NAC as we've edged closer to care and maintenance. The last blast allowed us to reflect on the success of Stage 2 and the hardworking team that made it possible."

Pictured are the remaining NAC workers and the Orica and DeVeth Drilling teams.





End of an era

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Mining at New Acland Mine ceased on Friday, 26 November.

The protracted approvals process and the ongoing uncertainty regarding Stage 3 has seen more than 280 valuable and highly skilled employees made redundant in the past three years.

Despite the challenges, the team at New Acland has continued to prioritise safety. I appreciate the leadership shown on site which has allowed every employee to return home safely to their family and loved ones.

Twenty employees will be responsible for care and maintenance at New Acland until the remaining approvals process is finalised.

Our departing employees leave as highly skilled professionals. Over the past two years they have undergone additional training, been awarded nationally accredited skills certification, received resume and interview coaching and had their pre-employment medical examinations updated, all in a bid to make each person more employable.

New Hope is committed to securing the remaining approvals required for Stage 3, which would enable a restart of operations and employment opportunities for hundreds of local workers, as well economic opportunities for the region more broadly.

Acland Pastoral Company Update

APC CONTINUES TO GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

Acland Pastoral Company's cropping and cattle operations have thrived over the past few months.

New Hope Group Agricultural Manager, Tim Burgess said APC bred weaners sent to Bengalla Agricultural Company for fattening generated excellent results.

"The partnership between APC and BAC continues to deliver strong results

for both operations," Tim said.

The herd is now growing quickly as breeder calving continues, with 1,000 of the expected 1,200 calves already on the ground.

Summer planting preparation is also progressing well, with APC taking delivery of a new planter, tractor, and spray rig.





One of the lucky ones

STAYING LOCAL.

Bec Murphy knows she is one of the lucky ones.

With care and maintenance preparations fast approaching on site, an opportunity allowed Bec to transition into the environment team and extend her association with New Hope into an eleventh year.

For more than a decade the mother of three has been driving trucks at New Acland to help offset the operating costs of a nearby farm she owns and runs with her husband Jason.

"I discovered there was an opportunity to join the New Hope team in 2011," Bec said.

"It was a dream job because it ticked all the boxes. The salary and flexibility were great and it was close to home. It was perfect."

The protracted approvals process and the ongoing uncertainty regarding Stage 3 saw Bec commence a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Southern Queensland in 2018.

"I've always had an interest in agronomy, agriculture and the environment, but I never

thought there would be an opportunity to be part of the environment team at New Acland," Bec said.

"That changed when I discovered there was an opportunity to stay on as an environmental officer.

"Naturally, I jumped at the opportunity.

"I thought life was taking me down one path, which was full of uncertainty. I had no interest in being a FIFO worker and being away from my family for weeks-on-end. Fortunately, there was another plan."

Bec officially started in her role as New Hope's newest environmental officer on 1 December.

"I've spent the past few weeks being shown the ropes, including all the tracks and paddocks," Bec said.

I'm very grateful and feel very fortunate to be one of only 20 employees who will remain onsite while New Acland is under care and maintenance."



Stage 3 Update

A POSITIVE OUTCOME!

Earlier today (Friday 17 December) the Land Court of Queensland recommended that the New Acland Mine Stage 3 mining leases and the environmental authority amendment application be granted, subject to conditions.

This is an excellent result for New Hope Group, our employees, their families and our supporters in the Darling Downs community.

There are still a number of steps required to obtain final project approval for Stage 3. We will continue to work closely with the relevant Queensland Government departments to achieve these approvals, which would enable a restart of operations and employment opportunities for hundreds of local workers at the New Acland Mine, as well economic opportunities for the region more broadly.

Dave O'Dwyer
New Acland Mine General Manager

Enquiries & complaints

WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OUR COMMUNITY OF SOME HELPFUL NEW ACLAND CONTACTS.

For general, non-urgent matters please call (07) 4691 3445.

For urgent safety, environmental or operations matters requiring immediate attention, please call our 24-hour community hotline on 1800 882 142.

You can also reach us by email: community@newhopegroup.com.au

To find out more, please visit: <https://newhopegroup.com.au/>



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