

## NEWS RELEASE

Date

18:00 MONDAY 29 MAY 2017

### **BHP Mt ARTHUR COAL CELEBRATES LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM AND LAUNCHES NSW LOCAL BUYING FOUNDATION ACROSS UPPER HUNTER**

Mt Arthur Coal (MAC) is pleased to announce the launch of its NSW Local Buying Foundation and celebrate 12 months of success of its Local Buying Program.

The Local Buying Program opened in the Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter Shires on 1 March 2016, to provide greater visibility for small businesses engaging with MAC through an online supplier directory.

“The number of suppliers and work instructions have grown significantly; the range is as diverse as catering to drilling, to rehabilitation services and maintenance”, Mt Arthur Coal General Manager Dawid Boshoff said.

“I’m pleased that since the Local Buying Program started in NSW, MAC operations have approved more than \$3 million with locally-based suppliers.”

Overall, BHP Coal operations have approved more than \$120 million with small businesses in neighbouring towns across the Bowen Basin and Mackay in Queensland and the Upper Hunter since the Local Buying Program was first established in 2012.

With more than 12 months of success behind the Local Buying Program in NSW, BHP is proudly launching the Local Buying Foundation.

The Foundation is a critical part of the Local Buying Program and an exciting initiative BHP hopes will be of benefit to the community throughout the Upper Hunter.

The Local Buying Foundation provides financial support for local and regional business development and capacity building programs.

BHP makes a small financial contribution to the Foundation for every transaction processed through the Local Buying Program.

The Local Buying Foundation Advisory Committee – consisting of nine local community members and a BHP representative – allocates funding, oversees effective governance, and recommends what types of initiatives and projects the Foundation should support.

BHP’s partner, C-Res, not only delivers the Local Buying Program but administers the Local Buying Foundation and makes the payments on behalf of the Advisory Committee (LBFAC).

– ends –

**Media contact:**

Chris White, BHP M: 0410 429 599

Tracey Cuttriss-Smith, C-Res General Manager M: 0418 647 443