

26 March 2020

## **UPDATE ON COVID-19 NZ RESPONSE; EARNINGS GUIDANCE WITHDRAWN AND EXPORT OPERATIONS PUT ON CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

Bathurst Resources Limited (ASX:BRL) (“Bathurst”) advises that Bathurst’s mining operations in New Zealand are to continue to supply fuel to customers deemed to be essential, with respect to the COVID-19 announcement by the New Zealand government on 23 March 2020.

The announcement confirmed that New Zealand was to move to alert level 4 from 11.59pm Wednesday 25 March 2020, the highest COVID-19 alert level. This requires people to stay at home, and businesses to be closed, *except for those that provide essential services*, amongst other measures, for an initial period of four weeks.

The domestic operations of Bathurst, its subsidiaries, and joint venture BT Mining, are considered essential services under the energy and extractives sector as they support companies that provide essential services. However from 11.59pm on Wednesday 25 March 2020, the Stockton export mine, in which Bathurst has a 65 percent equity share via BT Mining, has been put on care and maintenance for the duration of the mandated closure.

Bathurst’s CEO Richard Tacon, said Bathurst acknowledges the government’s response to this evolving situation, and will continue to supply any customer considered to be an essential service.

The health and safety of our employees and the communities that we operate in remain at the forefront of everything that we do. The key measures we are taking to ensure our people remain safe whilst we continue to operate our domestic mines are:

- Enhanced social distancing measures, including limited persons per transport, meals taken in isolation, safety briefings in small numbers with increased spacing, and limiting operations to essential systems only.
- Increased cleaning protocols.
- No face to face meetings or interactions.
- Operations limited to five days per week, to ensure adequate supervision of the necessary controls.
- No visitors or non-essential contractors or consultants to be onsite.

The Stockton mine will be manned by a skeleton crew only to maintain the site in a safe and servicable state. The displaced workforce have been asked to take annual leave for the immediate future.

Assembled coal shipments will be loaded in the next three weeks, and discussions with all affected customers will continue.

There is considerable uncertainty surrounding the duration and scale of the COVID-19 pandemic both locally and off-shore, and how this may impact our operations in the longer term. For this reason Bathurst withdraws the full year 2020 EBITDA guidance of \$70m previously issued to the market.

In the meantime, management are focused on providing as much clarity as possible to our staff, and ensuring we maintain best practice when it comes to health and safety. Business continuity plans are also being reviewed in the event that at some point in the future, we do have to temporarily cease all operations.

We will continue to evaluate the viability of operating our domestic mines as the situation unfolds. Further updates will be provided as soon as more information becomes available.

Authorised for release on behalf of the board of directors of Bathurst

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Tacon', is positioned above the name.

Richard Tacon, CEO