



8th January 2019

Statement regarding Whitehaven Coal Limited's support of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

Mr John Hann

Chair, Vickery IPC

Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (the Service) provides 24 hour aeromedical and rescue services throughout Northern NSW from three bases in Tamworth, Belmont and Lismore. A fourth base is located in Newcastle for the purpose of engineering and maintenance support.

The Service is here for all members of our community. Throughout the New England and North West region the Rescue Helicopter commonly responds to Triple 0 emergency calls to assist people injured on the roads, farms, workplaces, on sporting fields or in recreational settings. The Service is also tasked on search & rescue missions and inter-hospital transfers to ensure residents of the region can access necessary care in the most appropriate hospital. Most commonly these inter-hospital transfers are flown to Tamworth, Newcastle or Sydney.

The Service is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is reliant on community fundraising and support to ensure the financial viability of operations.

Since 2010 Whitehaven Coal Limited (Whitehaven) and its employees have actively supported the Service making a direct financial contribution of over \$739,900 to our Tamworth operations:

- This financial contribution is largely derived from a Workplace Giving Program in which employees choose to donate an amount from each pay cycle;
- As employee numbers have grown over time the total contribution has increased, most notably with the commencement of operations and Maule's Creek in 2015;
- Whitehaven chooses to match every employee contribution within the Workplace Giving Program dollar for dollar;
- Whitehaven sponsors community events which benefit the Service including those organised by our Volunteer Support Groups with a recent example being the Narrabri Community Art Exhibition held on the weekend on 2nd November 2018 at The Crossing Theatre;
- Whitehaven employees additionally choose to attend or participate in many community events which benefit the Service;
- The support of Whitehaven and its employees goes well beyond the financial contribution.

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service



Collectively, community support ensures that our Service can continue to operate 24-7 delivering helicopter emergency medical services across Northern NSW. This is to the benefit of all in our regional communities.

Richard Jones OAM
Chief Executive Officer
Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service – Northern NSW