

*Embargoed until 11am AEST, 1 July 2020*

## **BMA to create new jobs from autonomous haulage investment at Daunia**

BMA has announced \$100 million investment and new jobs as part of the introduction of 34 autonomous trucks at Daunia mine in Central Queensland.

BMA Asset President James Palmer said this is a multigenerational investment in our industry and our state at a time when it is needed.

“We acknowledge the important role our business and industry can play in supporting Queensland communities and the local economy during this time.

“This announcement is a vote of confidence in Central Queensland. At least 10 regional and indigenous businesses will be employed to support the rollout, with contracts worth \$35 million. This will result in 150 additional project roles for BMA people and contractors. This is on top of 56 new permanent roles on site.

“There will be no job losses as a result of this decision and anyone who currently works with us, be it an employee or labour hire worker, will be given the opportunity to continue to do so,” he said.

Hastings Deering’s Central Queensland operations will see an additional 30 jobs required to assist with truck and ancillary fleet conversion.

Hastings Deering CEO, Dean Mehmet said: “This contract is a huge boost to our local business and the region. We will need 30 additional people to support the work that is required to convert the trucks and ancillary mining fleet into autonomous vehicles at Daunia. It’s exciting work to build on that allows us to grow and develop local talent to deliver technology solutions into the resources sector.”

Other examples of local businesses that will directly benefit from this decision include NB Industries who will complete the light vehicle fleet conversion, and Radlink Communications who will install wireless communication hardware across the mine.

BMA Asset President James Palmer highlighted the employee engagement and training that is central to this decision.

“We have engaged with our workforce at Daunia over the previous 18 months on the possible rollout of autonomous haulage. Our people have told us that they are eager for new job opportunities and skills. That is why we are confident this is the right decision for Daunia.

“It will further increase safety and performance and help the mine remain competitive over the long-term.

“We understand this decision represents some change. But it also offers a unique opportunity for people to gain new, highly valued skills that will create additional opportunities for growth into the future.” he said.



BHP Mitsubishi Alliance

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To help prepare for Daunia's autonomous future, it is estimated over 30,000 hours of training will be delivered, ranging from general awareness to extensive training for those operating equipment, interacting with the autonomous haul trucks, or taking on new roles.

The first Caterpillar autonomous trucks will begin from February next year, with the rollout expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

Further information on BHP can be found at: [bhp.com](http://bhp.com)

**ENDS**

**Video news release** with TV grabs featuring Lori Smith, General Manager, Daunia, and Broll.

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#### **About BMA**

The BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) is a 50-50 joint venture between BHP Limited and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd that was formed in 2001. BMA is Australia's largest seaborne exporter of metallurgical coal and operates seven Bowen Basin coalmines – Blackwater, Broadmeadow, Caval Ridge, Daunia, Goonyella Riverside, Peak Downs and Saraji, as well as the Hay Point Coal Terminal. The alliance also owns the non-operating Norwich Park mine. For further information on Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd please go to [mdp.com.au](http://mdp.com.au); for further information on BHP Limited please go to [bhp.com](http://bhp.com).