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Central Queensland Fitzroy Resources coal mine sale secures 1,000 jobs

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Queensland Treasurer and Energy Minister David Janetzki, Premier David Crisafulli and Mines Minister Dale Last. (ABC Alex Brewster)

The future of more than 1,000 employees, contractors and suppliers at three Queensland mining sites has been secured, according to the premier, after a newly formed company purchased a majority shareholding in Bowen Basin mining company Fitzroy Resources.

Fitzroy Resources operates Broadlea, Carborough Downs and Ironbark mines near Moranbah in central Queensland.

Argo Queensland, formed two months ago, has acquired a 70 per cent stake in the company for an undisclosed sum.

Premier David Crisafulli said the deal was struck during negotiations he led at a recent trade mission to India and Japan.

"Today's deal opens the door for new and increased investment out of Europe and out of Japan," he said.

"It shows that we've got a future we should be proud of, one that employs thousands of men and women right across the state."

It is the third major mining announcement for Central Queensland this week.

In a letter to employees, the company said the sale marked an end to an "extraordinarily challenging" period for staff, contractors and suppliers.

"Fitzroy has been through a difficult period and we are grateful for the support of our team and stakeholders as we have successfully worked through it," the letter reads.

"This transaction will deliver a significantly strengthened balance sheet, which puts Fitzroy in a stable position to manage our financial commitment to you and our contractor partners and suppliers."

In a statement, CEO Dan Clifford said the transaction could take up to four months and was a strong vote of confidence in the long-term potential of the mines.

Treasurer David Janetzki said the new capital would secure the future of 1,000 jobs.

"That's really important at a time when people want to know they have that stability long term," he said.

Bowen Basin mines to expand

On Tuesday the Chinese-backed mining company Yancoal said it hoped to expand and extend the life of the Yarrabee coal mine near Blackwater.

The open-cut mine opened in 1994 and produces mostly metallurgical coal for the international steel market.

The company is now proposing to extend the life of the mine until 2070, continuing to mine up to 4 million tonnes of coal a year until then.

Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie has also announced the expansion of the Centurion mine, 40 kilometres north of Moranbah, into the 2050s.

The government has declared it a "co-ordinated" project to allow mine owner Peabody Energy to deal with a single government agency while seeking approvals for the $662 million project.

Peabody said the expansion would produce around 100 million tonnes of high-grade steel-making coal for export.

Isaac businesses welcome sale

Isaac Chamber of Commerce president Nathan Corbett said it was hoped the Fitzroy Resources sale would provide more security for business.

"It's either business as usual or it's a potential uplift ... with investment in the region and investment in businesses," he said.

Mr Corbett said most mining companies had a "buy-local-first policy" and while the company name might change, he hoped operations would remain the same.