# Peabody Energy Wambo And Wilpinjong Mines Approve New Labor Contracts

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ST. LOUIS, May 23, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Peabody Energy (NYSE: BTU) announced today that workers at its Wambo and Wilpinjong Mines in New South Wales have recently approved new labor agreements.  Together, the new agreements cover more than two-thirds of the company's high-value thermal coal exports from Australia.

"These new agreements were approved by an average of 80 percent, indicating a clear show of support from workers at our operations in Australia," said Peabody President – Australia Eric Ford.  "They follow the overwhelming approval of the new three-year North Goonyella enterprise agreement in Queensland last month, covering Peabody's highest-value hard coking coal production."

Peabody employees approved the new three-year Wambo enterprise agreement at the underground mine.  Wambo employs 150 workers, producing high-quality thermal and PCI coal products. The mine's underground operations shipped 3.1 million tons in 2011.

The new four-year Wilpinjong agreement was reached with the mine's current contract operator, Thiess.  Wilpinjong will be transitioning to Peabody owner-operator status beginning April 1, 2013.  Wilpinjong has a workforce of approximately 350 and produces thermal coal for both domestic and export markets.  The mine shipped 9.8 million tons of coal in 2011 and recently completed an expansion.

Peabody Energy is the world's largest private-sector coal company and a global leader in sustainable mining and clean coal solutions.  The company serves metallurgical and thermal coal customers in more than 25 countries on six continents.  For further information, go to PeabodyEnergy.com and CoalCanDoThat.com.

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