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RECORD FULL YEAR NET PROFIT AFTER TAX OF \$168.6 MILLION

About Macarthur Coal

Macarthur Coal is an Australian coal company developing a new generation of coal assets in Queensland's Bowen Basin. The company currently holds 73.3% of the Coppabella and Moorvale mines.

The company's operations produce approximately one third of the seaborne global demand for low volatile PCI coal, which is a high-growth coal market.

The company is focussed on organic growth through developing new mines from grass roots level and identifying and pursuing high growth market segments.

For further information contact:

Nicole Hollows
MD and CEO
Macarthur Coal Limited
Tel: 07 3221 7210

Ian McAleese
EGM Corporate Development
Macarthur Coal Limited
Tel: 07 3221 7210

Or visit the website:
www.macarthurcoal.com.au

Macarthur Coal Limited (ASX: MCC) today reported a record Net Profit After Tax (NPAT) of \$168.6 million for the twelve months ended 30 June 2009. The result was a 131.9% (\$95.9 million) increase on 2008 NPAT and is within market guidance reported on 18 June 2009.

The record NPAT was underpinned by significantly higher coal sales prices achieved in the first half of the year and an increase in sales volumes from those achieved in FY2008 (0.67Mt increase to 4.61Mt, including purchased coal).

Key financial results for the 2009 financial year include:

		2009	2008	% Var
Sales revenue	\$M	695.4	400.2	73.8
EBITDA	\$M	281.4	136.2	106.6
EBIT	\$M	260.2	117.7	121.1
NPAT	\$M	168.6	72.7	131.9
Earnings per share	cents	79.3	36.6	116.7

The Board has declared a full year dividend of 13 cents per share, fully franked, to be paid on 30 September 2009, which accords with the Company's policy of paying 50% of H2 NPAT of \$61.6 million. The record date for the dividend is 11 September 2009.

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Nicole Hollows reflected on the year, summing it up as a year of contrasting halves with the second half completely overshadowed by the challenges posed by the Global Financial Crisis earlier in the year.

"I have reflected on how we managed to achieve this result despite the year we faced. Our mission, to grow shareholder value was our reference point. We had to ensure that we managed the challenge of rapidly declining demand for our coal and the corresponding pressure on cashflow while moving ahead in a sustainable way with our growth plans.

"We were able to procure substantial spot market sales of both thermal and PCI coal to non-traditional customers during the second half of the year, complementing our existing long term customer base and providing an alternative market for Macarthur Coal's sales in the future," said Ms Hollows.

"We are focused on developing the Middlemount Mine project and one other mine from our tenement portfolio. Our successful capital raising in June and July this year has positioned us well to pursue our objective to double production in the next five years."