



MARKET RELEASE

26 February 2010

Macarthur Coal Limited

TRADING HALT

The securities of Macarthur Coal Limited (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Tuesday, 2 March 2010 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: MCC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pat O'L'.

Patrick O'Connor
Senior Issuers Advisor

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26 February 2010

Mr Patrick O'Connor
Company Advisor
ASX
Level 5, Riverside Centre
123 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Patrick

Email patrick.oconnor@asx.com.au

Macarthur Coal Limited (ASX: MCC) - request for trading halt

Macarthur Coal Limited (**Macarthur**) (ASX: MCC) requests an immediate trading halt pending the release of the company's bidder's statement, notice of meeting and independent expert's report containing material information regarding the Gloucester acquisition and acquisition of assets from Noble Group Limited.

In accordance with Listing Rule 17.1, the company provides the following information:

- (a) Macarthur requests the trading halt to continue until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on the second trading day after the trading halt commenced and when Macarthur makes an announcement to the market and requests that the trading halt be lifted;
- (b) Macarthur is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted; and
- (c) Macarthur is not aware of any other information necessary to inform the market about the trading halt.

Yours faithfully
MACARTHUR COAL LIMITED

Lisa Dalton
Company Secretary



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