

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

14 March 2005

Macarthur Coal Secures Additional Port Throughput

Macarthur Coal Limited (ASX: MCC, MCG) advises that the Coppabella and Moorvale Joint Venture, in which Macarthur Coal holds a 73.3% interest, has entered into a contract with Ports Corporation of Queensland to ship 750,000 tonnes of coal through Abbot Point Port, located approximately 200 kilometres north of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT). The contract has a 12 month term ending 28 February 2006.

Commenting on the arrangement, Macarthur Coal's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ken Talbot, explained that access to Abbot Point keeps the company on track to meet its 4.5 million tonne sales target for the 2004/05 year. Abbot Point access also provides opportunity for the target to be exceeded in response to the strong demand for PCI coal.

"Macarthur Coal has sought to maximise its throughput at DBCT. In late 2004, it became necessary to supplement DBCT port capacity to reduce the impact of congestion at the port and constraints on capacity increases in the foreseeable future."

The company's recently announced profit forecast guidance for the current financial year of \$48 - \$55 million includes an estimate of the benefit of obtaining capacity at Abbot Point.

About Macarthur Coal

Macarthur Coal is an Australian resources 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 38% 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.

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