

A leading *independent* Australian coal company



23 March 2006

ASX Release

Ken Talbot, Managing Director and CEO of Macarthur Coal (ASX: MCC), advises that he has disposed of 6 million shares, representing 3% of the shares issued by the company.

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 a 73.3% interest in the Coppabella and Moorvale mines.

The company's operations produce approximately 44% of the low volatile PCI coal exported from Australia.

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:

Ken Talbot
Managing Director and CEO
Macarthur Coal Limited
Tel: 07 3221 7210

Shane Stephen
Vice President – Strategy and
Corporate Development
Macarthur Coal Limited
Tel: 07 3221 7210

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

Ken Talbot had always intended to sell a small percentage of his shareholding, following the sale of coal tenement interests to Macarthur Coal. The tenement transaction, which was supported by Macarthur Coal's shareholders in December 2005, enabled Macarthur Coal to increase its ownership significantly in a number of Bowen Basin coal tenements.

Mr Talbot does not intend to sell any additional shares. His holding in Macarthur Coal following the transaction will be 36%.