

ASX RELEASE

26 February, 2010

SHARE SALES BY ENTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX:WHC) has been advised that entities associated with Managing Director, Mr Tony Haggarty, and Executive Director Business Development, Mr Andy Plummer, have sold 5,000,000 shares and 3,700,000 shares respectively in Whitehaven. The sales have been made in order to finance the exercise of options vested in these entities under the terms of the Equity Participation and Option Deed, and for other private needs.

The shares were placed by UBS AG, Australia Branch to a range of institutional investors at a price of \$4.66 per share.

Mr Haggarty has advised Whitehaven that the Haggarty Family Trust intends, in the short term, to exercise options over 7,326,266 Whitehaven shares and to fund the option exercise through the proceeds from the share sale. The Plummer Family Trust exercised options over 7,326,266 Whitehaven shares in January 2010 and proceeds from this sale of Whitehaven shares will be used to replace the funds used to finance the option exercise.

The options vested in the entities associated with Mr Haggarty and Mr Plummer in January 2010 (when the relevant share price performance hurdles were achieved) are the last two tranches of a total of six tranches of options granted under the Equity Participation and Options Deed entered into between these entities and Whitehaven, prior to the ASX listing of the Company in June 2007.

The sales represent 13.0%¹ and 9.9% of the stakes in the Company held by the entities associated with Mr Haggarty and Mr Plummer respectively and collectively represent approximately 1.8% of Whitehaven's total issued shares.

For further information please contact:

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¹ Including 7,326,266 shares that will be issued when options are exercised by entities associated with Mr Haggarty.