

ASX RELEASE

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WHITEHAVEN'S NARRABRI MINE REACHES COAL SEAM

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX:WHC) today announced that the coal seam has been reached in the first of three drift entries being constructed at its new Narrabri underground coal mine in New South Wales.

Tunnelling will now continue to expose a 3.5 metre coal face, which will enable mining by continuous miners to commence in the coming weeks.

"This is a significant milestone in the development of our Narrabri operation" Whitehaven Managing Director Mr Tony Haggarty said. "Surface construction for Stage One of the project (continuous miners) is essentially complete and we are looking forward to coal production."

About Narrabri Coal

Whitehaven's Narrabri Joint Venture is situated 28km south of Narrabri in north-west New South Wales. It is a joint venture with:

Whitehaven (operator)	70%
Electric Power Development Co. Ltd	7.5%
EDF Trading	7.5%
Upper Horn Investments Limited	7.5%
Daewoo International Corporation and Korea Resources Corporation	7.5%

Construction commenced on Stage One of the project in January 2008, with production expected to commence in mid-2010.

Initial production using continuous miners will be 0.7 million tonnes per year. A rail loop and associated coal handling and processing equipment has been constructed to facilitate the transport of coal from the project site to Newcastle for export.

Stage Two plans for the project include the production of an additional 5.3 million tonnes per year from longwall mining. An Environmental Assessment is currently being carried out for the longwall phase.

The project will produce a low ash, high energy, low sulphur thermal coal for the export market.

For further information, please contact:

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