

ASX RELEASE

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APPOINTMENT OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER – OPEN CUT OPERATIONS

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX:WHC) today announced the appointment of Mr Peter Wilkinson as General Manager - Open Cut Operations.

The appointment follows an extensive recruitment process which commenced in 2011 after the current General Manager – Open Cut Operations, Mr Casper Dieben, announced his intention to retire in 2012.

Mr Wilkinson's previous role was as Executive General Manager NSW at Idemitsu Australia Resources, with responsibility for the Boggabri Coal operations in the Gunnedah Basin and Muswellbrook Coal in the Hunter Valley. He will join Whitehaven on 12 March 2012.

Mr Dieben will remain with Whitehaven to complete a number of projects before he retires in July.

"We are extremely pleased to announce Peter's appointment," Whitehaven Coal Managing Director Mr Tony Haggarty said. "Peter has extensive experience in both open cut mining and general management and will be a valuable addition to our team."

"On behalf of the Whitehaven Board and management team I would like to thank Mr Dieben for his valuable contribution to the company during the past 5 years. During this time he has overseen the significant expansion of our open cut operations. We wish him well in his retirement."

For further information:

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