



WHITEHAVEN COAL LIMITED

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UPDATE ON MERGER WITH GLOUCESTER COAL

Whitehaven Coal Limited (“Whitehaven”) notes the announcement on 15 May 2009 by Gloucester Coal Limited (“Gloucester”) regarding the increased cash offer of \$7.00 per share by Noble Group Limited (“Noble”) for all of the shares in Gloucester (“Noble Offer”) that was announced on the same day.

The Gloucester directors have announced that in their view the Noble Offer is superior to the proposed merger with Whitehaven. As a result, the Whitehaven merger will not proceed, unless the Noble Offer lapses or does not otherwise proceed which is highly unlikely.

Whitehaven remains focused on creating value for its shareholders through the significant growth opportunities within its current portfolio of mines and projects in the Gunnedah Basin.

For further information, please contact:

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