



WHITEHAVEN COAL

ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

22 SEPTEMBER 2014

VICKERY COAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX Code: WHC) is pleased to announce that it has received notification from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment that the Department, acting as a delegate for the NSW Minister for Planning, has approved the project application for the company's Vickery Coal Project, in the NSW Gunnedah Basin.

The approval is for a project that can initially produce 4.5Mtpa ROM coal, with the coal to be transported along an existing haul road to Whitehaven's Gunnedah Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP). With infrastructure already in place the Vickery project will become a low capital startup for Whitehaven. Timing for startup is still to be determined but is unlikely to occur before the company's flagship Maules Creek Project is fully ramped-up to its 13Mtpa ROM rate.

As part of the Project application process Whitehaven has committed to observing a range of conditions to ensure that environmental impacts arising from the Project are properly minimised.

Whitehaven's Managing Director and CEO, Paul Flynn said that the Vickery Project approval is a significant positive step for Whitehaven as it provides another growth option for the company following the development of the Maules Creek.

"Whitehaven can now seek to form a joint venture for this long life development which will produce Maules Creek quality coal", Mr Flynn said.

About Vickery

Whitehaven acquired Vickery from Coal & Allied in February 2010. The Vickery assets comprise several mining and exploration tenements and approximately 3,450 hectares of associated land and water licenses. The project is located about 25 kilometres north of Gunnedah alongside the haul road that Whitehaven currently uses to haul coal from the Tarrawonga and Rocglen mines to the Gunnedah CHPP.

The Vickery project has Recoverable Reserves of 204Mt contained within total Coal Resources of 537Mt. Coal quality is similar to both Tarrawonga and Maules Creek, with high quality thermal and metallurgical coal products capable of being produced from the project.

Whitehaven holds several coal tenements adjacent to the currently defined Resources including Vickery South and Merton which are likely to add to the current Resources and Reserves in the future.

The Project does not require approvals from the Federal Government.

The Vickery project has a strip ratio of about 10:1 and would startup at about 4.5Mtpa ROM coal. The large size of the deposit provides an opportunity to expand production up to about 8.0Mtpa, subject to NSW Government approval. Initial capital required to develop the project will be low as existing infrastructure such as the haul road and Gunnedah CHPP and train loadout facilities can be used. The expansion opportunity would require a much larger capital outlay for a CHPP and rail loop.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Michael Van Maanen – Media

M: 0412 500 351

E: Michael.vanmaanen@newgatecomms.com.au

Ian McAleese – Investor Relations

T: 61 2 8507 9714 M: 61 427 227 530

E: imcaleese@whitehavencoal.com.au