

## MARKET RELEASE

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**GLOUCESTER  
COAL**

## Middlemount Coal Media Release

Attached is a Media Release issued by Middlemount Coal today regarding the completion of the rail spur line.

### For Further Information

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## **Completion of Middlemount rail spur signals start of ongoing operations**

Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd today announced that construction has been completed on a 16.5km rail spur directly linking the Middlemount Coal project to the Goonyella rail network, enabling exports through Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT).

Middlemount Coal Chairman Tim Crossley said the commencement of rail haulage was a significant milestone for the Middlemount Coal project, which is a joint venture between Gloucester Coal and Macarthur Coal.

"The Middlemount Coal project is the first Greenfield project since 2007 to commence production in the Bowen Basin and its successful development from exploration prospect to operating mine is a very proud achievement for everyone involved - particularly the Middlemount Coal team," Mr Crossley said.

"Completion of the rail spur marks the commencement of ongoing operations and the progressive ramp up of coal production by project's mining services contractor.

"Initial exports from the project will be via existing port capacity allocation at DBCT, however the project will have long term port capacity access at Abbott Point following completion of the Northern Missing Link which is expected to be commissioned in January 2012."

Middlemount Coal CEO Michael Gray said the Middlemount Early Rail Alliance (MERA), consisting of GHD and John Holland Group had completed construction of the rail spur ahead of schedule.

"While the project's timing was impacted by the extensive wet season in 2010/2011, the Rail Alliance was able to accelerate development of the line with completion occurring a month ahead of the revised schedule," Mr Gray said.

"The Middlemount Coal partners acknowledge the great effort of the Alliance to expedite the project and applaud the exemplary safety performance during construction, particularly given the difficult operating conditions created by the extensive wet weather."

The Environmental Impact Study process for the expansion of the Middlemount Coal project from 1.8 million tonnes per annum to up to 5.4 million tonnes ROM has been completed and final approval for the increased production is expected by mid 2012 calendar year.

### **Contacts**

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