



MARKET RELEASE

22 December 2009

GLOUCESTER COAL LTD

TRADING HALT

The securities of Gloucester Coal Ltd (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Thursday, 24 December 2009 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: GCL

Suzanna Dabski
Adviser, Issuers (Sydney)



GLOUCESTER COAL LTD

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22 December 2009

Ms Suzanna Dabski
Adviser
Australian Stock Exchange
Exchange Centre
Level 6, 20 Bridge Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Dear Suzanna,

In accordance with ASX Listing Rule 17.1, we request a trading halt in the shares of Gloucester Coal Ltd on ASX immediately.

For the purposes of ASX Listing Rule 17.1, we advise as follows:

- The reason for the trading halt is that there is a prospect of Gloucester Coal Ltd being the subject of a transaction relating to the control of Gloucester Coal Ltd.
- Gloucester Coal Ltd wishes the trading halt to last until it is in a position to make an announcement to the market. It is expected this will occur prior to the close of business today.
- Gloucester Coal Ltd is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.
- Gloucester Coal Ltd is not aware of any other information necessary to inform the market about the trading halt.

Yours sincerely

Peter Scott
Company Secretary
Gloucester Coal Ltd