

## ASX RELEASE

14 December, 2012

### DERAILMENT UPDATE

Whitehaven Coal Limited provides the following update in relation to the recent derailment near Boggabri and the subsequent closure of the rail line.

- The Australian Rail Track Corporation has revised the estimated date for re-opening the line. The track is now scheduled to open on 20 December, 2012 – five days earlier than previously advised.
- Whitehaven has applied to the Department of Planning for approval to truck coal from its Narrabri mine to the Gunnedah CHPP whilst the rail line is closed. That application is currently being assessed.
- A small scale trucking trial between the Narrabri mine site and the Gunnedah CHPP has been conducted. The trial was designed to test the systems and procedures that would be employed for any larger-scale trucking should approval be granted. A number of issues, mostly related to the significant increase in grain and other freight traffic along the route, were highlighted by the trial. Work is underway to ensure both Whitehaven and the haulage contractor are comfortable with the processes and operations should approval be granted.
- We thank the local community and various government bodies for their support in attempting to find a solution to the rail closure, and will continue to consult with them as to any future arrangements.

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