

ASX RELEASE

Whitehaven Coal Limited ABN 68 124 425 396 Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000 PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225 Tel: +61 2 8507 9700 Fax: +61 2 8507 9701 www.whitehavencoal.com.au

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APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER – OPERATIONS

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX: WHC) today announced the appointment of Jamie Frankcombe as Executive General Manager – Operations, effective from February 4th. This is the senior operating role in Whitehaven, reporting to the Managing Director.

Mr Frankcombe replaces Allan Davies who will be retiring after having fulfilled this role since late 2008. Mr Davies stepped down from the Board of Whitehaven at its AGM in November.

Mr Davies will work alongside Mr Frankcombe during a transition period and will remain involved with Whitehaven on a part-time consulting basis thereafter.

Mr Frankcombe joins Whitehaven from Fortescue Metals Group Ltd. where he has been Director Operations for the past 12 months. Prior to that he has had extensive senior experience in coal mine operations and development including as the Chief Operating Officer of PT Adaro Indonesia, Executive General Manager – Americas for Xstrata Coal and General Manager Operations for Xstrata Coal's Hunter Valley open cut operations.

Mr Frankcombe holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) from Wollongong University and a Master of Business Administration (Technology) from APESMA Deakin University. Additionally he holds First Class Certificate of Competency qualifications for both the NSW and Queensland coal industry.

"As EGM - Operations, Jamie will be responsible for all of Whitehaven's mining operations and will be a member of the seven person EGM team reporting to me," Whitehaven Coal Managing Director Mr Tony Haggarty said.

"We are delighted to welcome Jamie to our senior team and to have his extensive mine operating knowledge and experience applied to our rapidly growing business," he said. "Jamie is an outstanding candidate to lead our operating team through the next phase of growth.

"On behalf of both the board and our management team I would like to thank Allan for his extremely significant contribution to our business over the past four years. He has been an integral member of the team during a time in which the company has undergone significant change."

For further information, please contact:

Tony Haggarty – Managing Director Tel: 02 8248 1257 Kate Kerrison – Kate Kerrison + Company Tel: 0413 946 704 Email: kate@katekerrison.com.au