

Aston Resources Announces Completion of Maules Creek Coking and Thermal Coal Project

Brisbane, 18 February 2010

Aston Resources today announced that it has completed the acquisition of the Maules Creek project from Coal & Allied Industries Limited.

The Maules Creek project is located in the Gunnedah Basin, New South Wales (NSW), with the mine plan envisaging saleable production of 12mtpa of premium quality semi-soft coking coal and low ash, high energy export quality thermal coal for over 20 years.

Aston Resources Managing Director, Nathan Tinkler, said "The acquisition of Maules Creek is an important step in creating a leading Australian-owned mining company. Aston plans to rapidly develop Maules Creek into one of the world's leading coking and thermal coal producers that will create long term jobs for the local community during construction and full operation and will generate significant long term royalties and taxation revenue for government".

"The Maules Creek project is one of Australia's few remaining 'Tier 1' coal development assets. With over 640Mt of coal resources it ranks as a globally significant deposit of high quality, low ash, high-energy thermal coal and premium quality semi-soft coking coal. This world class coal resource will support a low cost, low risk and high productivity open cut mine that is typically only developed and owned by the global majors."

"The demand for semi-soft coking coal is very strong and is expected to increase significantly as Asian steel mills lift the proportion of semi-soft coking coal in their coke mixes. Highly consolidated global supply and few high quality mine development projects mean that the long-term dynamics of this coking coal market have shifted to the upside. Aston Resources intends to establish long term partnerships with key Asian steel mills and power generators and Maules Creek will be an important new source of premium quality coal."

Aston Resources plans to conduct an ASX listing in 2010 as well as a range of other capital initiatives as it continues to rapidly develop and implement its mining plans.

For more information on Aston Resources please see our website – www.astonresources.com

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