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20 October 2009

Whitehaven acquires the Vickery Project from Coal & Allied

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX:WHC) has entered into an agreement with Coal & Allied Industries Limited (ASX:CNA) to acquire the Vickery Coal Project ("Vickery") for \$31.5 million cash plus approximately 1,150 ha of land in the Gunnedah region. The transaction is subject to normal regulatory approvals.

The Vickery assets being acquired comprise:

- Authorisation 406 (A406) and Coal Lease 316 (CL316),
- Approximately 3,450 ha of associated land, and
- 399 megalitres per year of water licences.

Vickery is located within the Gunnedah Basin, approximately 18km southeast of Boggabri and 25km north of Gunnedah. Vickery was the site of an open cut mine from 1991 to 1996 and during this period, it produced approximately 6 million tonnes of thermal coal.

Whitehaven holds several tenements adjacent to CL316 and until recently produced export coal from its Canyon Mine which is located immediately to the north of Vickery. Whitehaven also holds EL4699 which is located northwest of Vickery and the company's Rocglen Mine is immediately to the east.

Whitehaven will be targeting the development of both open cut and underground operations at Vickery:

- **Open cut** - In the near term, Whitehaven intends to focus on the exploration and definition of an open cut area called East Bluevale that is contiguous to Whitehaven's West Bluevale open cut area which contains approximately 4.95 million tonnes of measured, indicated and inferred resources.¹
- **Underground** - There are nine coal seams contained within the Vickery tenements. Three of these seams, the Shannon Harbour, Stratford and Cranleigh seams, are believed to have economic potential. These seams are thought to be too deep for open cut mining but are expected to be amenable to underground mining methods. The quality of these coal seams ranges from low ash, high energy thermal coal to high volatile soft coking coal.

Whitehaven's Managing Director, Tony Haggarty, said, "Vickery is an important "bolt-on" acquisition for Whitehaven. It consolidates the company's significant tenement holding in the Gunnedah region and our expectation is that with focussed exploration in the next year, substantial open cut and underground coal resources will be defined."

For further information, please contact:

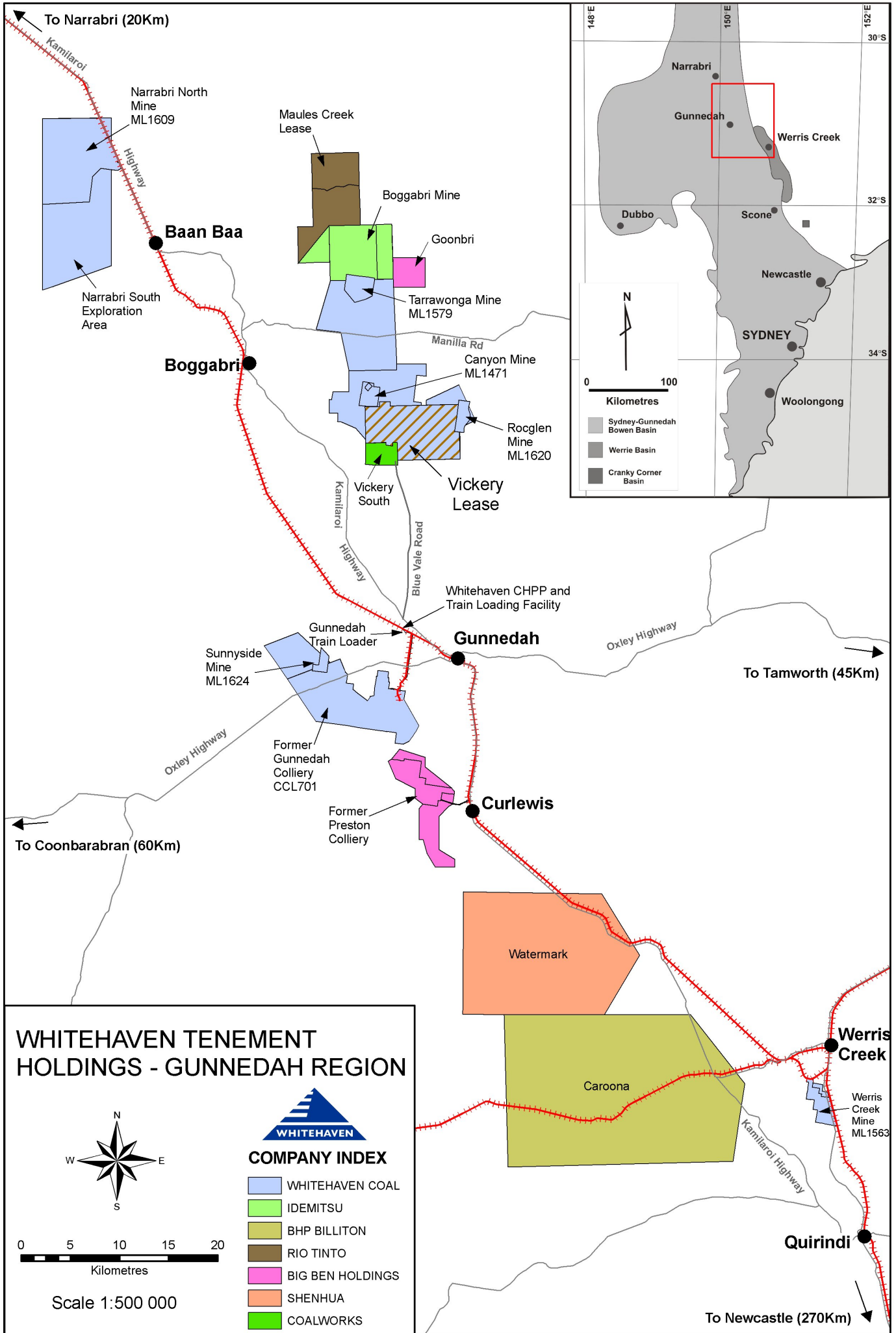
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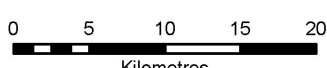
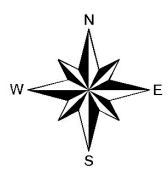
1.

The information in this release relating to resources at West Bluevale mine is based upon and accurately reflects a report provided by Competent Person, Mr Greg Jones. Mr Jones is a consultant to Whitehaven Coal Limited, and is a principle consultant employed by JB mining services.

Competent Person Mr Greg Jones consents to the inclusion of material in this release relating to resources at West Bluevale in the form and context in which it appears. Mr Jones is a Member of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and The Australian Institute of Geoscientists and has the relevant experience in relation to the mineralisation being reported on by him to qualify as a Competent Person as defined in the Australian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (The JORC Code, 2004 Edition)



WHITEHAVEN TENEMENT HOLDINGS - GUNNEDAH REGION



Scale 1:500 000



COMPANY INDEX

- WHITEHAVEN COAL
- IDEMITSU
- BHP BILLITON
- RIO TINTO
- BIG BEN HOLDINGS
- SHENHUA
- COALWORKS

