

FEBRUARY 2018



HIGHER COAL PRICES DRIVE RECORD H1 PROFIT

Whitehaven Coal has reported a net profit after tax of \$257.2 million for the half year ended 31 December 2017.

All key financial performance metrics improved on the previous corresponding period (pcp):

- Sales revenue of \$1,146.4 million, up by 39% pcp;
- Operating EBITDA of \$460.6 million rose by 42% on pcp on higher coal prices;
- Cash generated from operations of \$409.7 million, an increase of 55% on pcp;
- Net debt was reduced to \$146.9 million with gearing falling to 4%;
- The Board has resolved to pay an interim dividend of 13 cents per share.

Operating Highlights

Equity ROM coal production and sales of coal including purchased coal of 8.4Mt and 9.2Mt, 2% and 18% higher respectively than the pcp reflecting the ongoing ramp up of Maules Creek mine and solid production from the other mines in the portfolio.

Commenting on the results, Whitehaven Coal Managing Director and CEO Paul Flynn said:

“It is pleasing to report a record first half-year profit. The result represents the culmination of a growth strategy that has been in place for a number of years. Firstly, the development of the Narrabri underground mine set the company on a growth path. This was followed by the development of the Maules Creek open cut mine which added significant production to the portfolio. At the same time, the successful reduction in costs across the entire Whitehaven business and recent higher coal prices have enabled the company to generate this great result.

“We continue to see strong interest from potential new customers throughout Asia. Many are seeking Whitehaven’s high quality coal for their power stations and steel mills – either planned, under-construction or newly built.

“Now that our major capital programme is behind us it is pleasing to reward shareholders with an interim dividend. The dividend points to the confidence that Whitehaven’s Board has in the future prospects of the company.”

More details on the results can be found at <http://www.whitehavennews.com.au/half-year-result-fy2018-higher-coal-prices-drive-record-h1-profit/>

AIR MONITORING STATIONS FOR REGION

Two new air quality monitoring stations constructed in Gunnedah and Narrabri have now commenced publicly reporting real-time data on air quality for the region.

Establishment of this monitoring network has been supported by the local industry as a way of providing scientific, timely information to the community about air quality in the region.

The data from the first two months of monitoring shows air quality has been good at the Narrabri and Gunnedah monitors, with no exceedences of the daily particulate matter air quality standards, and average levels well below other monitoring locations throughout NSW, including Sydney.

CHANGES TO COMPANY BOARD

Whitehaven Coal has announced changes to the Company's Board of Directors.

Christine McLoughlin has retired as a Director of Whitehaven. Christine joined the Whitehaven Board in May 2012 and has served almost six years on the Board. Whitehaven has benefitted from Christine's extensive experience, especially in the areas of Remuneration, Health, Safety, Environment and Community and Corporate Governance.

Christine McLoughlin said: "It has been an honour to serve as a Director since 2012 following the merger with Aston Resources. In recent years, Whitehaven Coal has gone from strength to strength. With a world-class management team, the Company has overcome many challenges in building and developing two Tier One mines – Maules Creek and Narrabri.

"Whitehaven's production has quadrupled in the past five years from 5Mtpa to more than 20Mtpa. As a result, Whitehaven is now Australia's leading independent coal company.

"It has been a privilege to serve on the Board and I will continue to be a very interested shareholder in the years to come. The company is in a very strong position and I wish the CEO, Paul Flynn and the management team well as Whitehaven enters its next phase of growth."

Whitehaven Chairman Mark Vaile said "the Board would like to thank Christine for her significant contribution to the Company during the six years that she

served as a Director and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

Joining the Board as a new independent non-executive Director is **Fiona Robertson**.

Fiona has extensive experience in the resource industry, having worked as a senior executive and in non-executive director for a number of ASX listed mining companies.

Whitehaven Chairman Mark Vaile said "we are delighted to welcome Fiona to the Board as an independent non-executive Director. Fiona's experience in the mining industry especially in senior financial roles, will add significant skills and insight as Whitehaven continues on its growth path as Australia's leading independent coal company.

With the above changes to the Directors of Whitehaven there will follow a number of changes to the members of the various Board Committees. Fiona will be appointed to the Audit & Risk Management and the Remuneration Committees. Other changes include John Conde being appointed the Chair of the Remuneration Committee, Tony Haggarty being appointed Chair of the Audit & Risk Management Committee and Julie Beeby being appointed Chair of the Health, Safety, Environment and Community Committee.

Pictured is outgoing Director Christine McLoughlin being thanked for his service by Chairman Mark Vaile and CEO and Managing Director Paul Flynn.



EXCELLENCE NOMINATION FOR WHITEHAVEN'S KIRSTEN

Whitehaven Coal's Kirsten Gollogly is in the running to be recognised as one of NSW coal's most exceptional women.



The NSW Minerals Council has announced the finalists for the 2018 Women in Mining Awards and Whitehaven's General Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Communities is one of three finalists in the exceptional woman in mining category. Ms Gollogly said the nomination was reflective of how the industry has changed.

"Things are changing quite rapidly," Ms Gollogly said.

"I have an engineering background and when I started the ratio would have been one woman to six men in the course, but now there is a great deal of diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and background.

"We are all one workforce, we are all one community."

The Brisbane native, turned Gunnedah local said she is committed to continue to engage with the community.

"It's something I really enjoy about Whitehaven is the very strong focus on being members of the community," she said.

"Whitehaven supports hiring locals, when you look at small towns like we live in, 50 per cent are females and if you want your workforce to be reflective of your community, you need to be welcoming of all diversities such as, gender, age, ethnicity and that is something Whitehaven supports quite well."

Whitehaven Coal CEO and Managing Director, Paul Flynn said Kirsten is very deserving of her nomination.

"Everyone at Whitehaven is very proud of Kirsten for being nominated for the NSW minerals council exceptional woman in mining award and we wish her the best of luck at the awards on March 15," Mr Flynn said.

The awards dinner will be held at McCullough Robertson Lawyers, in Sydney on March 15.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any news, stories or ideas for future editions of Whitehaven News, please get in touch with:

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