COAL & ALLIED

Managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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Production report for the quarter ended 30 September 2009

'000 tonnes (100% basis)	CNA interest	3Q 2008	4Q 2008	1Q 2009	2Q 2009	**3Q 2009**	9 months 2008	**9 months 2009**
Saleable production								
Hunter Valley Operations	100%							
Thermal coal		1,645	2,268	2,212	2,383	**1,610**	5,618	**6,205**
Semi-soft coking coal		629	475	492	346	**1,144**	2,390	**1,982**
		2,274	2,744	2,704	2,729	**2,754**	8,008	**8,187**
Bengalla Mine	40%							
Thermal coal		1,296	1,402	1,126	1,438	**1,468**	3,956	**4,032**
Mount Thorley Operations [(a)]	80%							
Thermal coal		918	53	513	478	**882**	1,727	**1,873**
Semi-soft coking coal		287	508	57	157	**81**	660	**294**
		1,205	561	570	635	**963**	2,387	**2,167**
Warkworth Mine [(a)]	55.6%							
Thermal coal		964	1,658	1,064	918	**1,378**	3,993	**3,360**
Semi-soft coking coal		215	125	75	217	**204**	262	**496**
		1,179	1,783	1,139	1,135	**1,582**	4,255	**3,856**
Total Mount Thorley Warkworth		2,384	2,344	1,709	1,770	**2,545**	6,642	**6,023**
Total coal production		5,954	6,490	5,539	5,937	**6,767**	18,606	**18,243**
Total sales [(b)]		6,196	6,605	5,214	6,184	**6,327**	18,479	**17,725**
Coal & Allied share								
Coal production		4,413	4,745	4,244	4,443	**4,991**	13,865	**13,677**
Coal sales ('000 tonnes)		4,625	4,810	4,044	4,629	**4,721**	13,856	**13,395**

(a) Production can be sourced from either mining lease and is allocated over the year based on the tonnage commitment ratio contractually agreed between the Mount Thorley and Warkworth joint ventures.

(b) Sales relate only to coal mined by the operations and exclude traded coal.

Production figures are sometimes more precise than the rounded numbers shown, hence small differences may result between the total of the quarter figures and the full year figures.

Production

Coal & Allied's share of saleable coal production for the quarter was 5.0mt, 12 per cent higher than the June quarter, and 13 per cent higher than the corresponding quarter last year.

The higher proportion of semi soft coking coal production at Hunter Valley Operations in the September quarter is attributable to the presentation of this material in the coal seams and supported by a return in overall demand in Coal & Allied's traditional semi soft markets. This level of semi soft coking coal production is expected to be maintained in the fourth quarter.

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Mount Thorley Warkworth's coal production was 44 per cent higher than the preceding quarter, primarily due to the arrival of new heavy mobile equipment and improved weather conditions.

The higher stripping ratio this year at Mount Thorley Warkworth continues to impact production levels.

Sales
Coal & Allied's share of coal sales in the third quarter was two per cent higher than the previous quarter largely due to higher semi soft export sales offsetting lower domestic sales. Coal & Allied anticipates that full year 2009 sales volumes will be broadly similar to 2008.

Infrastructure
After a number of years of negotiations, a tripartite agreement between the NSW Government and the two industry owned ports, Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) and the under construction Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group (NCIG), was reached in September for a new framework supporting the establishment of long term contracts to ship coal from the Port of Newcastle. A nomination process has commenced with both PWCS and NCIG, and this process will apply to shipments from 1 January 2010.

The tripartite agreement is subject to the authorisation of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC).

The ACCC has also renewed its interim authorisation for the queue management system for coal shipments at the Port of Newcastle effective until 31 December 2009.

Other
There was no exploration activity during the quarter.

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