

COOROORAH PROJECT MDL APPLICATION LODGED

14 March 2011



AUSTRALIAN PACIFIC COAL LIMITED (ASX:AQC) announces it has lodged an application for a Mineral Development Licence over its 100% owned EPC 1827 "Cooroorah" project as a further development following the 29 November 2010 announcement of an inaugural coal resource.

Under the tenure of a Mineral Development Licence, AQC plans further drilling to elevate the resource status of Cooroorah from an inferred to an indicated resource and to commence the initial phases of a feasibility study for a future mining operation.

The Queensland Department of Mines & Energy has given the Mineral Development Licence application the identifier number of MDL 453.

AQC will keep the market informed of future developments as they occur.

For further information please contact:

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Australian Pacific Coal ASX: AQC

Australian Pacific Coal (AQC) is an emerging ASX coal explorer focused on the Bowen Basin, Queensland.

Through a series of acquisitions, AQC has positioned itself with both metallurgical and thermal coal projects potentially suited for underground and open cut mining.

The projects are located close to the existing network of rail and port infrastructure in the Bowen Basin.

The Company ultimately seeks to be a coal miner in its own right, or to value add these projects for joint venture or divestment.

The Cooroorah Project has a previously announced inferred resource of potential metallurgical coal. It is well located between Macarthur's Stanwell project and Jellinbah Mine. The Mt Hillalong project shows scope to prove a similar scaled coal resource.