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## MIDDLEMOUNT PROJECT SECURES LONG TERM RAIL CONTRACT WITH PACIFIC NATIONAL

### About Macarthur Coal

Macarthur Coal Limited is the world's largest producer of seaborne low Volatile pulverized injection coal (LVPCI) used for steel making. As a supplier to the world's leading steel producers, Macarthur Coal exports its entire product around the globe.

The Company currently operates two mines in Queensland's Bowen Basin and plans to double its production capacity in the next five years through the development of the Middlemount Mine project and an additional mine from its extensive project portfolio.

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Macarthur Coal Limited (ASX:MCC) announces that Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd (an incorporated joint venture between Macarthur Coal Limited and Noble Group Limited (SGX:NOBL)) has signed a long term take or pay contract with Pacific National Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of the Asciano Group (ASX:AIO), for the haulage of coal from its Middlemount mine to the expanded Abbot Point Coal Terminal.

Macarthur Coal's CEO and Managing Director Nicole Hollows said alternative infrastructure options were necessary given long term demand projections for coal.

"This contract provides the Middlemount mine with access to expanded port capacity and diversification from the existing Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal." Ms Hollows said.

The contract will commence on 1 January 2012 and facilitate the haulage of coal from the Middlemount mine via the Goonyella-Abbot Point Expansion to the port at Abbot Point.

This contract completes the commercial arrangements for rail and port to support 3.0Mtpa of coal from the Middlemount mine, following finalisation of the below rail contract with QR Network in April 2010 and complimenting the existing port contract.

"Middlemount Coal Pty Ltd has appointed an alliance to design and construct a dedicated rail loop to service the Middlemount Mine. Subject to approvals, the loop is expected to be commissioned in the second half of 2011." said Ms Hollows.

"As the major shareholder in the Middlemount mine, Macarthur Coal looks forward to being one of the first users of the Goonyella-Abbot Point Expansion."

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