



ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

Tuesday, 8 December 2009

The Manager
Company Announcements Office
Australian Securities Exchange
Level 45, South Tower Rialto
525 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

ELECTRONIC LODGEMENT

Dear Sir or Madam

ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

I attach for release to the market an announcement regarding the Isaac Plains Coal contract.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Mead".

Fiona Mead
Company Secretary

MELBOURNE

Level 6/380 St Kilda Road,
Melbourne VIC 3004 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9284 4000
Facsimile: +61 3 9699 2869

SYDNEY

Level 6/15 Blue Street,
North Sydney NSW 2060 Australia
Telephone: +61 2 8484 8000
Facsimile: +61 2 8484 8154

Email: info@asciano.com.au
www.asciano.com

ABN: 26 123 652 862

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Tuesday 8 December 2009

Isaac Plains Coal contract with Asciano in Queensland

Asciano today announces the signing of its fifth Queensland coal haulage customer.

Isaac Plains Coal Management Pty Limited, a joint venture between Aquila Resources and Vale, has executed a long term, take or pay contract with Asciano for the haulage of coal exports by rail in Queensland commencing 1 July 2010.

The contract is for a period of 10 years and provides Isaac Plains Coal with rail haulage capacity of 1.1 million tonnes per annum from its Isaac Plains mine in the Goonyella system to the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal.

Asciano Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mark Rowsthorn said, "We are extremely pleased to have Isaac Plains Coal on board. They are a results focused operation with a clear need for a performance focused rail operator. We are hopeful that our superior service levels will encourage their joint venture partners to be part of our expansion plans for operations through to Abbott Point and Wiggins Island."

The recent Queensland Government commitment to the Northern Missing Link project, scheduled to be completed by 1 January 2012, will deliver an additional 30mt of rail infrastructure capacity from the Bowen Basin to the export market. This development provides further growth opportunities for the Pacific National coal business.

During November, Asciano commissioned the 6th of its 10 train sets scheduled to commence operations in the Goonyella and Blackwater systems.

"So far in 2009 the start up phase of the Queensland operations has delivered over 4 million tonnes. This is a direct result of Pacific National's rail haulage expertise and significant investment in this growing Queensland market", Mr Rowsthorn said.

"Asciano remains extremely confident in the long term coal export opportunities in both Queensland and NSW and understands the importance of delivering superior performance to its customers."

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Pacific National Queensland coal haulage rail operations

Summary:

- Initial investment in ten train sets into the Queensland coal haulage market
- Performance based contracts in place with five major coal companies in Queensland (Xstrata, Rio Tinto, Macarthur Coal, Anglo Coal and Isaac Plains Coal Management)
- Operating in the Goonyella and Blackwater systems
- Total of 100 employees
- Committed investment of \$530 million
- 6 train sets fully operational to date
- Hauled more than 4 million tonnes of coal in 2009 calendar year to date
- Officially launched Queensland coal haulage operations 7 December 2009.

Ends

Further information about Asciano can be found on our internet site: www.asciano.com

Marie Festa
Group Corporate Affairs Manager
tel: +61 2 8484 8046 mobile: +61 405 494 705
email: marie_festa@asciano.com.au