



Media Release

**WANDOAN PROJECT –
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT RELEASED**

8 December 2008, Sydney – Xstrata Coal Queensland today released the Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) for its proposed Wandoan open cut thermal coal project for public review and comment.

The draft EIS is the first step in the project approval process and provides an outline of the environmental management practices and standards Xstrata Coal will implement if the project proceeds.

Wandoan Coal Project Director, Bill McKinstrey, said, “The proposed Wandoan project has the potential to provide significant opportunities for the surrounding communities and the Queensland economy, including the creation of around 800 long term jobs, a further 1000 jobs during construction and local and state infrastructure improvements.

“If approved, the project will provide royalties to the State Government of more than \$3 billion over the 30 year life of the mine and approximately \$500 million in annual port and rail charges. We anticipate flow on benefits to the region to potentially contribute up to \$500 million in revenue via goods and services produced, over the life of the project.”

The Wandoan mining lease application area covers approximately 32,000 hectares, with the proposed mine expected to produce about 30 million run of mine (ROM) tonnes of thermal coal per year, for an estimated 30 years.

The proposed open cut operation will include a coal handling and preparation plant and support facilities, with product transported by rail to the port of Gladstone for the export market.

Xstrata Coal is conducting a series of information briefings in Taroom, Wandoan and Miles in the coming days to provide the local community with an opportunity to respond to the EIS.

“We encourage the community to review the draft EIS and provide their thoughts and feedback to the Co-ordinator General within the following 8 weeks to ensure any potential concerns are identified and addressed,” said Mr McKinstrey.

The Wandoan project is being funded through a joint venture between Xstrata Coal Queensland (75% ownership), ICRA (Itochu) Pty Ltd (12.5% ownership) and Sumisho Coal Australia (12.5% ownership).

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Further media information:

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To view the EIS:

Visit the Wandoan Project Office: Royds Street, Wandoan (next to the pharmacy)
Open during December: Tuesdays 9am-12pm,
Thursdays 12pm-3pm and Fridays 9am -12pm

Visit a static display: Wandoan Library
Taroom Customer Centre/Library
Miles Library

People can download a copy of the EIS from the project website www.wandoancoal.com.au or call the free-call information line on 1800 052 797.

All written submissions regarding the EIS must be sent to:
The Coordinator-General, Attention: Project Manager – Wandoan Coal Project
Significant Projects Coordination
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
PO Box 15009, City East Qld 4002