



30 December 2010

OPERATIONAL IMPACT OF FLOODS AT CURRAGH MINE

Following heavy rain from the aftermath of Cyclone Tasha, major flooding is occurring in Central Queensland. This is the second major flood event in the region following unprecedented rainfall in December.

Access roads via the Capricorn Highway to Blackwater have been closed. This has prevented a significant number of employees from returning to work following the Christmas public holidays. The local access road from Blackwater to the Curragh Mine remains open.

A major flood surge in the Mackenzie River adjacent to the Curragh North mining area, is presently expected to peak on Sunday 2 January 2011. External forecasts indicate that this event will exceed the magnitude of the flood peak of January 2008.

Floodwaters from the Mackenzie River continue to be contained by the levee protecting mining operations at Curragh North.

All mining operations at Curragh North have been suspended including the Curragh North conveyor, and draglines 301 and 304 have been relocated to higher ground.

Limited dragline operations are continuing in the Curragh mining area.

Curragh is flying selected employees in from Rockhampton to support the current limited operations and for flood surge preparation works at Curragh North.

Queensland Rail has suspended train operations on the Blackwater line. The previous force majeure notice issued for coal deliveries remains in place.

Wesfarmers Resources Managing Director Stewart Butel is confident that the Curragh North levee system which is designed to accommodate a 1 in 1,000 year flood event, and other preventative measures will protect Curragh and the Curragh North operations from the predicted major flood surge and further rain.

Further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

For further information contact:

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