

25 February 2008

## **Heavy January and February Rainfall causes production impact at Queensland Coal Operations**

BMA has today provided a preliminary estimate of the production impact of the recent heavy rainfall experienced across Queensland's Bowen Basin (Australia).

While these assessments are continuing, it is currently estimated that the two significant rainfall events, on January 18 – 20 and February 9 – 14, will impact FY08 production from the BMA owned mines by between 6.5 and 7.5 million tonnes.

BMA has insurance cover for property damage and business interruption losses, and potential claims are currently being assessed.

BMA CEO John Smith said, "these are initial assessments of the impacts on production due to the inability to safely operate the mines and to maintain access for our people and supplies following the rains."

"We anticipate we will be better informed on the actual extent of the impact as the recovery process proceeds and mines are brought back to full operational capacity. We will provide an update on the impacts if they are materially different from our preliminary assessments once the situation has been fully assessed."

"Our focus remains on ensuring the safety of all employees and contractors at our operations and on swift recovery of operations, including dewatering of the pits. We are working with the EPA to meet their conditions and minimise downstream impacts."

"We are also continuing to work with our customers to minimise disruption to their businesses."

### Background Information

1. BMA is a joint venture coking coal outfit in which Mitsubishi Corporation holds 50% interest through its subsidiary Mitsubishi Development Pty., Ltd, (Headquarters: Sydney Australia). The remaining 50% interest is held by BHP Billiton).
2. The BMA owned mines include Peak Downs, Goonyella Riverside, Broadmeadow, Saraji, Norwich Park, Blackwater and Gregory Crinum.
3. FY08 refers to the Financial Year ending June 30, 2008.