

11 April 2013

EPC1824 “Mt Hillalong” – Rio Tinto Exploration JV Update

We are pleased report that Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd have commenced site survey, mapping and the first round of cultural heritage clearances on our Mt Hillalong joint venture tenement.

A program of 5 drill holes (including drill coring in-seam to conduct sampling for coal quality purposes), concurrent field mapping and ground magnetics is anticipated to commence in early July 2013.

We are looking forward to the outcome of this forthcoming drilling program.

About EPC1824 “Mt Hillalong”

In August 2011, AQC’s 100% owned subsidiary Area Coal Pty Ltd completed an Exploration, Option and Joint Venture agreement (EOJV) with Rio Tinto Exploration Pty Ltd. The EOJV sets out terms in respect of the acquisition or joint venture of the Company’s Mt Hillalong project. The initial payment of \$2.3 million under the agreement has been received by AQC.

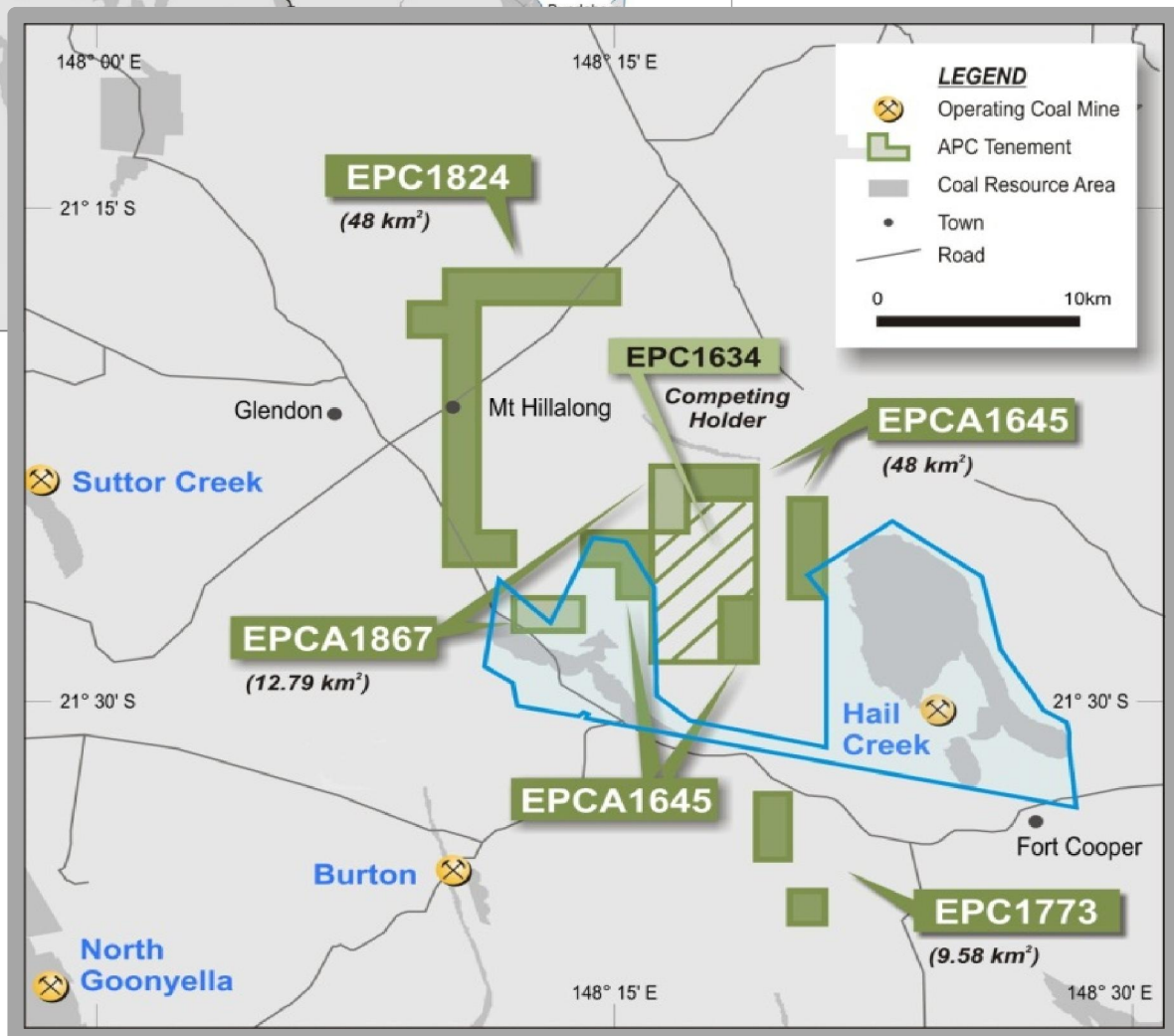
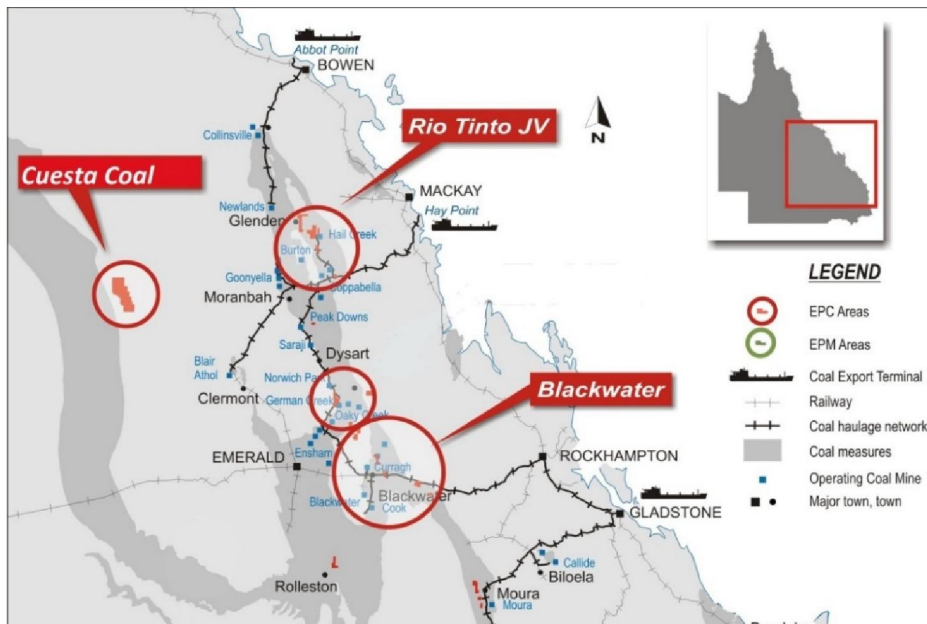
The joint venture, over four prospective EPCs covering 100km² with a subsidiary of Rio Tinto, a global mining major, validates the quality of the acreage and highlights the significant potential of the EPCs.

The 24-month transaction timetable for exercise of the first option will commence from first entry onto AQC tenement EPC 1824.

Under the joint venture, Rio Tinto Exploration has agreed to solely fund and manage a minimum expenditure of \$700,000 exploration program in EPC 1824 to exercise its right to earn a 75% working interest.

About Australian Pacific Coal Limited

Australian Pacific Coal Limited (ASX:AQC) is an ASX-listed company focused on the exploration and development of metallurgical and thermal coal projects. With interests in 34 coal tenements strategically located in south-east Queensland’s Bowen and Surat Basins, AQC has joint venture agreements in place with mining major Rio Tinto and Cuesta Coal.



Location of EPC 1824 "Mt Hillalong" JV tenements