

NEWS RELEASE

Release Time IMMEDIATE
Date 8 March 2010
Number 09/10

BHP BILLITON METALLURGICAL COAL NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

BHP Billiton today announced that it had reached terms for a significant portion of its hard coking coal volumes for 2010, based on a structural change to shorter term market based pricing for the contract period.

The company has reached agreement with a range of customers throughout Europe, China, India and Japan.

These settlements reflect the company's commitment to achieving market clearing prices over time across all its bulk commodities.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found on our Internet site: www.bhpbilliton.com

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