

PSG/pe

27 April 2006

The Manager
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Level 4
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION

Please find attached a copy of the quarterly statement covering the production, development and exploration mining activities within the Wesfarmers group for the period ended 31 March 2006.

Yours faithfully



P S GARDINER
ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

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WESFARMERS LIMITED

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLORATION

MARCH 2006

PREMIER

PRODUCTION

Overburden movement was 12.7 per cent higher than the previous quarter, due to increased shovel productivity and favourable working conditions.

Coal production for the quarter was 936,000 tonnes, 5.5 per cent below the previous quarter, due to a less productive mining sequence resulting in lower coal availability.

DEVELOPMENT

Wesfarmers Energy announced the construction of a Research and Development Char Plant (50,000tpa) that will produce “char” from the Premier mine. Commissioning is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of this calendar year.

EXPLORATION

There was no significant exploration activity during the quarter.

CURRAGH

PRODUCTION

Overburden removal for the quarter was 11.1 per cent lower than the previous quarter due primarily to lower production from draglines as a result of the commencement of a planned dragline shutdown. Contractor overburden removal was 4.6 per cent higher than the previous quarter.

Coal production for the quarter at 2,167,000 tonnes (comprising 1,521,000 tonnes of metallurgical coal and 646,000 tonnes of steaming coal), was in line with the previous quarter. Performance of the upgraded Coal Handling and Preparation Plant continues to improve, but recent developments regarding rail system constraints together with possible port capacity constraints, resulting from a four to six month delay in the completion of the third rail dump station, mean that full year production of metallurgical coal at Curragh is expected to be at the low end of the range advised previously (6.4 to 6.8 million tonnes).

DEVELOPMENT

The development of Curragh North progressed to plan during the quarter.

Key project development activities during the quarter focussed on the continuation of the Curragh North Materials Handling Project procurement and construction. At the end of the quarter the project was 50 per cent complete.

EXPLORATION

Exploration drilling to further delineate the resource at Curragh North was ongoing through the quarter.

BENGALLA

PRODUCTION

Coal production for the quarter was 435,000 tonnes, 47.0 per cent lower than the previous quarter due to mining operations being in a comparatively less productive section of the mining sequence categorised by thinner coal seams. During the quarter, operations concentrated on completing the final seams of a strip located near the pit floor, prior to moving onto the next strip. This resulted in lower equipment production rates due to longer truck hauls and higher hoist dumping required by the dragline.

DEVELOPMENT

There were no development activities finalised during the quarter.

EXPLORATION

There was no significant exploration activity during the quarter.

ATTRIBUTABLE PRODUCTION

Mine	Ownership	Beneficial Interest	Coal Type	Quarter ended ('000 tonnes)			Full year ended ('000 tonnes)			% Change		
				Mar 05	Dec 05	Mar 06	Mar 04	Mar 05	Mar 06	Mar Qtr 06 v Mar Qtr 05	Mar Qtr 06 v Dec Qtr 05	Yr to Mar 06 v Yr to Mar 05
Premier	Wesfarmers Premier Limited	100%	Steaming	790	991	936	3,299	3,470	3,600	18.5	(5.5)	3.7
Curragh	Wesfarmers Curragh Pty Ltd	100%	Metallurgical	1,335	1,457	1,521	4,636	4,480	5,848	13.9	4.4	30.5
			Steaming	613	727	646	2,398	2,248	2,842	5.4	(11.1)	26.4
Bengalla	Wesfarmers Bengalla Limited	40%	Steaming	572	821	435	2,392	2,266	2,249	(24.0)	(47.0)	(0.8)