



Wesfarmers Limited

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NEWS

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FLOOD IMPACT ON CURRAGH MINE

Floodwaters from the Mackenzie River in Queensland's Bowen Basin region continue to be contained by the levee protecting mining operations at Curragh North, part of the Wesfarmers-owned Curragh coal mine.

Conditions will be closely monitored over the next few days following the overnight flood peak with water levels expected to fall below the base of the levee during next week.

Two draglines and other major equipment were relocated to safe ground earlier in the week.

Production of metallurgical coal from Curragh for the 2007/2008 financial year will be reduced as a result of the extreme weather conditions.

Managing Director of Wesfarmers Coal, Stewart Butel, said limited mining was underway at Curragh and Curragh East with operations at a reduced level of output.

"Our estimate for full year production of metallurgical coal is now in the range of 6.1 to 6.5 million tonnes, compared to the pre-flood forecast of 6.5 to 6.9 million," said Mr Butel.

"Mining at Curragh North is expected to recommence early next month but will take some time to return to full production. Subject to the scheduled resumption at Curragh North and to satisfactory mine, rail and shipment performance, the year's output should be in the range mentioned above."

Curragh declared force majeure on all export and domestic contracts on 15 January 2008.

Mr Butel said the flood emergency had seriously affected many industries and people in the Bowen Basin region.

"The Curragh team's performance in safeguarding the mine's major equipment and monitoring and maintaining the levee through these very difficult times has been a magnificent achievement," he said.

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