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## **Blue chips help MAC buck trend**

Results MINING accommodation and services company The **MAC Services** Group says its exposure to blue chip clients and the right mines has helped to lift its first-half profit. The company increased its first-half dividend by 21 per cent on the first half of 2008 as a result of a strong performance, despite tough market conditions that will continue into the second half. Net profit to December 31 was up 34 per cent on the previous corresponding period at \$12.1 million. Revenue was up 39 per cent on the same period at \$53.4 million. **MAC Services** chief executive Mark Maloney said the strong results were due to a lowly geared balance sheet, strong contracts and continued exposure to major blue-chip clients. "We do a lot of work to make sure we're exposed to the right mines," Mr Maloney said. "Our contracts are in place and given the long-life, low-cost mines that we're exposed to, we should be in good stead. "We've learned from experience ... that you've got to keep a fairly conservatively geared balance sheet. "You've got to have strong contracts in place that underwrite the business and you've got to keep your exposure to the major blue-chip clients." Mr Maloney said shutdown and maintenance work in mines would also help second-half profits. "There's been a lot of maintenance and shut-down work that's been neglected over the last couple of years. "There's a lot of catch-up maintenance happening and there is also a lot of maintenance being put forward so there will be a level of activity over the next six months, driven by maintenance." **Mac Services** said that despite production cutbacks announced by some resources companies, it had yet to experience a significant negative effects.