

Central Queensland News

M'mount park sold by Anglo Coal

12 October 2007

ANGLO Coal's Capcoal Mine has sold the Middlemount Caravan Park to MAC Services Group who plan to invest \$4.5 million in the property. MAC took over management of the park immediately, with work on improving the grounds and facilities and the hiring of an on-site manager to begin soon. Capcoal Surface Operations general manager Alisdair Gibbons said while Capcoal had operated the caravan park for many years, it was not part of its core business.

"Capcoal has decided to sell the lease and management rights of the caravan park to concentrate on the delivery of our Community Engagement Plan," he said. "We also firmly believe the park's upgrade and management by MAC will make it a better place to stay for occupants and visitors to Middlemount." "MAC is an experienced caravan park operator who will upgrade, operate and maintain the park as a commercial operation." "This sale is designed to secure the long-term future of the caravan park." Mr Gibbons stressed that current caravan park occupants would not be asked to leave as a result of the sale process. "Capcoal and MAC will meet with current park occupants to explain the sale process and the planned upgrade," he said.

He confirmed Capcoal will continue its involvement with the caravan park as a major tenant with the intention to lease 24 new villas from MAC to accommodate short-term contractors and consultants. MAC's spokesperson Chris Jury said the sale would be a smooth transition for occupants.

"We appreciate Capcoal's input into our plans to upgrade Middlemount Caravan Park and will work with them to address any community concerns," he said. He said MAC would implement a range of changes to the way the caravan park was run, such as introducing standards similar to those at other caravan parks.

These new standards may relate to codes of conduct, site boundaries and accommodation standards. Mr Jury said the amenities block would be upgraded almost immediately while other plans would include improved internal roads, pathways and landscaping, construction of six new cabins and 24 villas and improved security.

"We are looking forward to working with Capcoal, current occupants and Broadsound Shire Council to make the park a better place to stay," Mr Jury said. Mr Gibbons said Middlemount residents would also benefit from the sale proceeds of the caravan park, with funds from the sale being used to implement key community engagement projects outlined in Capcoal's Community Engagement Plan. Additionally, Capcoal recently reiterated its commitment to the Middlemount community by pledging to invest more than \$100 million dollars in the town over the next five years.