## The West Australian



SE Business IN BRIEF

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## Coal shines

Glencore Xstrata, the **mining** and trading **company** created in a \$US29 **billion** deal last year, increased **copper** production 24 per cent in the first quarter after expansions in Africa and Australia. Output from its own mines was 382,000 tonnes in the three months to March 31, up from 307,700t a year earlier. **Coal** output rose 4 per cent to 34.1 **million** tonnes, lower than expected, after a strike at a mine in Colombia.

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## Forrest buys big

Andrew Forrest has come back into the market to show support for Fortescue Metals Group shares, as they again dropped below \$5 a share this week. Mr Forrest picked up 2 million Fortescue shares, dropping a lazy \$9.7 million in an on-market buy this week. The magnate has spent \$17.1 million on Fortescue shares since March.

## Kengkong ups stake

A **Hong Kong** investor is set to increase his **stake** in VDM Group to 30 per cent under a \$4.5 **million** capital raising. VDM said Australia Kengkong Investments, controlled by Hiu Ming Luk, would provide the unsecured loan for working capital next week. If shareholders approve conversion of the loan to shares at 1¢ each, Kengkong's VDM holding would rival that of managing director Dongyi Hua, whose **stake** would fall to 30 per cent.

co march : Glencore Xstrata PLC

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