

Wednesday, 20 January 2010

Department Responds to Adelong Night Curfew Requests

The Department of Planning has received a number of phone calls and letters relating to the curfew on Visy trucks travelling through the Adelong township.

The Department's Executive Director of Major Project Assessments, Chris Wilson, said that the curfew had been imposed as a condition of the Minister for Planning's approval of the Visy pulp and paper mill in 1998 and subsequent expansion project in 2007.

"Specific conditions were imposed to curfew the movement of any trucks associated with the mill travelling through Adelong between 10pm and 7am," Mr Wilson said.

"These conditions were imposed to directly address safety and night time noise impacts of increasing heavy truck traffic passing through Adelong.

"Without the curfew, Adelong residents, and therefore general township amenity, would be further adversely affected by increased noise.

"Since this requirement is a condition of consent issued by the Minister for Planning, it is legally enforceable and must be adhered to by Visy and its road transport contractors servicing the mill."

Any change to these arrangements would require an application to modify the condition from Visy and would be subject to comprehensive and transparent consultation with the Adelong community.

Mr Wilson said that he hoped this statement clarifies the matter for the local community.