

Friday, 8 October, 2010

### **Feedback sought on Mount Pleasant mine proposal**

The NSW Department of Planning is seeking public feedback on a proposal for a modification to the development consent for the proposed Mount Pleasant open-cut coal mine site near Muswellbrook.

The proponent, Coal and Allied, is seeking approval to:

- Relocate the approved mine infrastructure area within a larger footprint, with the specific location of the infrastructure area to be determined following detailed design;
- Install a new conveyor and service corridor between the Mt Pleasant and Bengalla mines so that the Mt Pleasant mine can use the Bengalla mine's rail facilities instead of constructing its own rail facilities; and
- Extend the life of the development consent by two years until 31 December 2022.

This proposed open-cut mine some four kilometres north-west of Muswellbrook was originally approved by the NSW Government in 1999 and has an existing valid development consent. The mine however has never begun operation under this consent.

The environmental assessment for the proposed modification is on public exhibition for three weeks, until October 29.

The Department's Deputy Director-General Development Assessment and Systems Performance Richard Pearson urged interested members of the public to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

Mr Pearson said the modifications were being proposed as part of a move by Coal and Allied to begin mining at the site.

"The Department will be working closely with Muswellbrook Shire Council in its assessment of this proposal," Mr Pearson said.

"Any submissions received will be carefully considered, along with the proponent's response to the issues raised in these submissions, as part of the Department's assessment of the project."

It should be noted that the mine will also need to obtain relevant environmental protection licences from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared for the proposed modification. The EA has been made publicly available at:

- Department of Planning, Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Muswellbrook Shire Council Offices, 157 Maitland Street, Muswellbrook;
- Nature Conservation Council, Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;
- Coal and Allied Muswellbrook Shopfront, 19 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook.

Alternatively, members of the public can download a copy of the EA from the Department of Planning's website at [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au) (go to Major Project Assessments/On Exhibition/Major Projects Part 3A); or ask the Department of Planning (1300 305 695) to send you a CD-ROM copy.

Submissions should be:

- posted to: Mining and Industry Projects, Department of Planning, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001;
- faxed to: (02) 9228 6466; or
- emailed to: [plan\\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Persons lodging submissions are required to declare reportable political donations (including donations of or more than \$1,000) made in the previous two years. For more details, including a disclosure form, go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/donations)

**Media unit contact: Mark Skelsey 02 9228 6275**