

Monday, 5 December 2011

**Bulga coal mine and blast fume**  
**Response given to *Singleton Argus***

**Could I please get a comment from the department about a loud explosion and orange plume of smoke resulting from a blast at Bulga coal mine, near Singleton?**

*Department of Planning and Infrastructure response:*

A Department of Planning and Infrastructure compliance officer attended Bulga Coal at 12pm on Friday 2 December to witness a blast following notification by the mine that loaded explosive product had been degraded by recent heavy rainfall and as such had the potential to produce post blast fume (the visible orange cloud).

The mine assessed weather conditions prior to the blast to ensure that any potential post blast fume travelled away from privately owned land.

The pre-blast modelling was found to be satisfactory with observed post blast fume moving generally in a northerly direction before dispersing over mine owned land.

While post blast gas would have been visible from residential areas to the south and west of the mine, the department was satisfied that best practice procedures were undertaken to minimise potential impacts on sensitive receivers.