

Response to the ABC New England North West re Maules Creek Coal Project

Response provided to ABC New England North West on 14 October in response to claims from the Maules Creek Community Council that the proposal documents did not include assessment of the option of underground mining and requests for more time to make a submission:

The environmental assessment for the Maules Creek Coal Project was publicly exhibited for six weeks, ending on Tuesday 11 October. The application before the department is for an open cut mining operation, and does not contain an underground mining component.

The EA does however contain some consideration by the proponent of the alternative option of mining the coal using underground mining.

The department is aware of the Maules Creek Community Council's request for additional information on an underground mining option. However, the department is not aware of what, if any, additional information the proponent may have provided to the MCCC.

Nonetheless, the MCCC has lodged a submission during the exhibition period, and the department is also willing to consider a further submission from the MCCC should one be forthcoming.

The department is currently collating the submissions which have been received and these will be made available on the website, at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>. The department will consider the issue of alternative extraction methods as part of its thorough assessment of the project.