MEDIA RELEASE

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PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED COAL TERMINAL

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Brad Hazzard has given the community two more weeks to comment on a proposal to construct and operate a coal export terminal at Kooragang Island but with a clear direction that thereafter all planning processes are to proceed expeditiously.

“Port Waratah Coal Services is proposing to build and operate a coal terminal (T4) comprising of rail infrastructure, a stockyard and conveyor system as well as wharves and berths which is deserving of maximum community input and then action to get on with the critical infrastructure.

“After speaking with a range of people in the region last week, I extended the current 46-day exhibition period for this significant project by two weeks,” Mr Hazzard said.

“The current exhibition period - which started on 8 March - is already longer than the standard 30 days, so this really is listening and responding to the community.

“But given the community interest in the proposal, the formal exhibition period will now run until Monday 7 May, giving the community more time to consider the proposal.”

“Thereafter the proponent will also be required to prepare a response to submissions to address issues raised during the extended exhibition period.

“The community will have an opportunity to review this document when it is received and made available on the department’s website.”

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has required the proponent to address key issues in its environmental assessment including noise and vibration, air quality, water quality, traffic, transport, access to the site and ecology- but once adequately addressed it is critical to the State’s economy that we get on with its delivery.

The proposal is on exhibition at a range of locations both in Sydney and Newcastle and online at http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au (then search for the project).

“I encourage the local community to make the most of this extension and ensure their voices are heard on this proposed development,” Mr Hazzard said.

MEDIA: Lee Dixon 0467 742 993