Planning Assessment Commission advice on Coalpac project released

The Planning Assessment Commission’s (PAC) independent review of Coalpac’s proposed mine expansion near Lithgow has been received by the NSW Government and publicly released today.

The independent review by the PAC is one further step in the ongoing development application assessment process by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

After further consideration by the department, the application will be referred back to the PAC (configured with different members to those who constituted the review panel) for a final determination.

The department will now examine the PAC’s review and all other relevant considerations in its assessment of the project, which is anticipated to be finalised early next year.

In July this year, the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard requested the PAC to review the Coalpac Consolidation Project, including holding public hearings and considering potential impacts on biodiversity, water resources and local health and amenity.

Following its review, the PAC has highlighted a range of concerns including impacts on biodiversity and significant rock formations, as well as dust and noise issues.

The PAC’s report is available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au (look for the What’s New link at the top right hand corner of the page).

In undertaking its assessment and final recommendations to the PAC, the department will carefully consider all impacts associated with the project along with the more than 900 submissions received when it was exhibited earlier this year.

In accordance with the government’s policy direction supporting transparency and openness in government processes, the department’s assessment report once finalised will be made publicly available on its website and referred to the PAC for a final decision.

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