

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

Feedback sought on proposed mine expansion in north-western NSW

The public is being invited to comment on a proposal for the expansion of an open-cut coal mine in the Narrabri Shire in north-western NSW, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proponent, Tarrawonga Coal Pty Ltd, is seeking planning approval for the Tarrawonga Coal Mine extension project, located approximately 15 kilometres north-east of Boggabri and 42 kilometres northwest of Gunnedah.

The application proposes to:

- Continue and extend the operations at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine and develop associated processing and transport facilities, to extract up to 3 million tonnes of coal per year until 2030 - an increase from current production of up to 2 million tonnes per annum;
- Construct and use a service corridor (including a haul road) linking it to the Boggabri Coal Mine infrastructure facilities; and
- Create a significant biodiversity offset area, comprising approximately 1,600 hectares of freehold land adjoining Mount Kaputar National Park.

The environmental assessment indicates the proposed extension would increase the mine workforce from 86 to 120 employees.

The department required the proponent's environmental assessment to specifically address issues including biodiversity, heritage, traffic, noise and blasting, as well as surface and ground water impacts.

The environmental assessment is on public exhibition for approximately five weeks from **Tuesday 24 January 2012 until Wednesday 29 February 2012**. Interested members of the public are encouraged to lodge a submission providing feedback during this time.

Submissions received during the public exhibition period, along with the proponent's response to submissions document, will be made available on the department's website. The submissions and proponent's response will be carefully considered as part of the department's assessment of the project.

The environmental assessment for the project can be viewed during business hours at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** – Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Boggabri RSL** – corner of Rees Avenue and Laidlaw Street, Boggabri;
- **Narrabri Shire Council** – 46-48 Maitland Street, Narrabri;
- **Gunnedah Shire Council** – 63 Elgin Street, Gunnedah; and
- **Nature Conservation Council** – Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

All relevant project documents are also publicly available on the department's website, and can be accessed by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

Submissions can be:

- Lodged online at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> (then search for the project);
- Emailed to plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au;
- Faxed to (02) 9228 6466; or
- Posted to Major Development Assessment, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Media contact: Laurel-Lee Roderick, 9228 6128 or 0429 153 139

NOTE: The Department of Planning and Infrastructure is issuing this media release to encourage the community to take part in the planning process. However, it is the role of the proponent (either through its documents published on our website or otherwise) to provide further specific details about the proposal.