Tuesday, 24 January 2012

Feedback sought on proposed mine expansion on Central Coast

The public is being invited to comment on a proposal for the expansion of an underground coal mine on the NSW Central Coast, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proponent, Centennial Mannerings Pty Ltd, is seeking to modify its 2008 planning approval for the Mannerings Colliery, on the southern side of Lake Macquarie. The mine produces thermal coal which is transported by an overland conveyor to the Vales Point Power Station, for domestic electricity generation.

The modification proposes to:

- Extract an additional 4.6 million tonnes of coal from the Fassifern and Great Northern coal seams, using bord and pillar methods of underground mining; and
- Expand the area being mined by around 256 hectares, while remaining within the area covered by the proponent’s existing mining lease.

The environmental assessment indicates the proposed expansion would create an additional 80 full-time jobs. The previously approved 10-year life of the mine to 2018, maximum extraction of 1.1 million tonnes per annum and hours of operation, would remain unchanged.

The environmental assessment is on public exhibition for one month from Tuesday 24 January 2012 until Friday 24 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;
- Lake Macquarie Council – 126-138 Main Road, Speers Point;
- Wyong Shire Council – 2 Hely Street, Wyong; 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.