

Thursday, 8 March 2012

Public input invited on proposed coal export terminal for Newcastle

The public is being invited to comment on a proposal for the construction and operation of a coal export terminal at Kooragang Island, in Newcastle, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proponent, Port Waratah Coal Services, is proposing to build and operate a coal terminal, known as Terminal 4, comprising of rail infrastructure to facilitate coal receipt, a stockyard and conveyor system as well as wharves, berths and ancillary facilities.

The \$3.5 billion T4 project also requires Commonwealth approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, due to its potential impact on wetlands, threatened species and migratory species.

The requirement for additional coal export capacity at the Port of Newcastle has been the subject of significant strategic planning, with increases forecast in the demand for, and production of, coal from the Hunter Valley and Gunnedah regions.

Port Waratah Coal Services has forecast that the capacity of its terminals at Kooragang Island will be exceeded in 2015. To address this, the T4 development is proposed to provide additional coal capacity.

Under Capacity Framework Arrangements approved in 2009, the proponent must ensure port facilities at Newcastle have sufficient capacity to handle the contracted coal throughputs.

The project is being assessed as a State significant project as it is development for the purpose of port facilities, shipping berths/ terminals/ wharf-side facilities with a capital investment value of more than \$30 million.

The department required the proponent to address a number of key issues in its environmental assessment including noise and vibration, air quality, water quality, traffic, transport, access to the site and ecology.

A copy of the environmental assessment can be viewed on the department's website, by visiting <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au> and following the links to the 'On Exhibition' page.

The proposal will also be on exhibition from **Thursday 8 March 2012** until **Monday 23 April 2012** at:

- **Department of Planning and Infrastructure** - Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- **Nature Conservation Council of NSW** - Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown;
- **Newcastle City Council** - City Administration Centre, 282 King Street, Newcastle;
- **Newcastle Library** - War Memorial Cultural Centre, Laman Street, Newcastle;

- **Mayfield Library** - Hanbury Street, Mayfield; and
- **Stockton Library** - King Street, Stockton.

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 6455; or
- Posted to Major Projects Assessments, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, SYDNEY NSW 2001.

Media contact: Laurel-Lee Roderick, (02) 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.