Monday, 10 September 2012

Comments sought on coal loader upgrade near Lithgow

The public is being invited to comment on a proposed coal loader upgrade in the state’s central west, which is being publicly exhibited by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The proponent, Ivanhoe Coal Pty Limited, is seeking approval to upgrade the Lidsdale Siding Coal Loader at Wallerawang, 20km northwest of Lithgow. The proposal includes the construction and use of coal conveyors, stockpiles, a train loading bin and an extension of the rail track to automate the loading of trains using a conveyor, rather than front end loaders.

The proposed upgrade would allow for an increase in throughput capacity from 2 million tonnes to up to approximately 6.3 million tonnes per annum. The stockpile capacity would be around 50,000 tonnes. The proposal would increase train movements at the site from two per day to an average of five per day, but would reduce the use of trucks to bring coal into the site.

The site currently receives coal from the overland conveyor from the Centennial Coal Services Site and coal brought in by truck from the Ivanhoe North mining operation.

The environmental assessment for the proposed modification is on public exhibition from Monday 10 September to Friday 19 October 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, will be made available on the department’s website and carefully considered as part of the department’s assessment of the project.

The department required the proponent to address a range of issues in its environmental assessment including noise and vibration, potential impacts on soil and water, air quality, traffic, visual impact, waste management, biodiversity and economic impacts.

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;
- Lithgow City Council – 180 Mort Street, Lithgow;
- Lithgow Council Library – Portland branch, Williwa Street, Portland; 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; or
- Posted to Mining and Industry Projects, 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.