

## **Response to The Australian on Minerals Council's report, July 1, 2013**

We welcome the NSW Minerals Council's submission on the new planning system and will take it into consideration.

Our initial assessment indicates that the submission overstates alleged mining project delays by failing to take into account the time proponents took to prepare their applications and respond to submissions.

Additionally, several of the mining projects mentioned in the submission involved complex issues where the proponents had failed to adequately address potential impacts.

In these cases, it was necessary for the department to subject the projects to further examination.

We recognise there is scope for improvement in the existing and future planning systems. However, at the same time we encourage companies to ensure they consult early with local communities and submit project applications that properly address environmental impacts.