Monday, 8 July 2013

**Historic mining operations to re-open near Tarago – hundreds of new jobs**

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has approved the re-opening of historic copper, lead and zinc mining operations south of Goulburn, with the potential to create 140 ongoing jobs and 200 during construction.

The approval has been granted for the Woodlawn mine, about 10 km west of Tarago, which began operations in 1978 and closed in 1998.

The approval will allow TriAusMin Limited to initially recover resources from the existing tailings dams and then re-open the underground mine.

The $126 million project has the potential to mine up to 1.5 million tonnes of tailings and underground ore per year to produce a maximum of 150,000 tonnes of copper, lead and zinc ore concentrate per year, for up to 21 years.

The approval will also facilitate the clean up and rehabilitation of the site in accordance with contemporary standards.

The mine’s former open cut void is now being used as a major landfill facility, including for Sydney’s waste. This facility will continue to operate unaffected, as will 11 turbines from the Woodlawn wind farm which are located within the project site.

During the project’s public exhibition earlier this year, a total of 17 submissions were received, including 11 from public agencies, 2 from special interest groups and 4 from the general public.

The department has imposed a number of conditions on its approval to ensure the local environment is protected. Under these conditions, the company must:

- design existing and new tailings dams to prevent seepage of contaminated material off-site;
- implement a water management system to ensure zero discharge of contaminated water from the site;
- establish a comprehensive surface water and groundwater monitoring network on the site and surrounds;
- ensure the design of the underground workings achieves negligible subsidence beneath the landfill and evaporation dams; and
- progressively rehabilitate the site in accordance with strict performance criteria.

More information on the department’s approval can be found by visiting [http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au) and searching for “Woodlawn Mine Project”.

**Media contact:** Paul Searle – 9228 6295