Dubbo’s big mining project on display

Feedback is being sought on a development application for a proposed $700 million rare minerals mine near Dubbo which has the potential for up to 250 ongoing jobs.

Western Australian miner Alkane Resources has plans for an open cut mine with an initial life of 20 years near Toongi, about 25 kilometres south west of Dubbo.

Alkane Resources is also developing the Tomingley Gold Mine in the region and operated Peak Hill Gold Mine from 1996-2005.

If approved, the mine has the potential to make Dubbo a major world supplier of the rare minerals zirconium, niobium, hafnium and tantalum.

The proposal also includes new infrastructure including a water and gas pipeline, rail loading facility, and various rail and road upgrades.

According to the company, the deposit contains substantial identified and potential mineral resources capable of supporting future expansion beyond the current proposal.

The company’s application says the mine represents a significant investment for the central NSW economy with:

- A project gross earning estimate of $5.4 billion dollars,
- A construction capital expenditure of more than $700 million, and
- The employment of between 300 to 400 people during the construction phase and up to 250 fulltime people during the operational phase.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure required the company to address a range of issues in its Environmental Impact Statement for the project, including potential air, noise, water quality and transport impacts along with details about how the site will be rehabilitated.

The rare minerals are used in the aerospace industry and the development of “green technology” and high technology applications such as aerospace super alloys and superconductor materials used in electronics, mobile phones and computers.

The application and Environmental Impact Statement will be on display until November 18:

- On the planning department website www.planning.nsw.gov.au
- Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney;
- Dubbo City Council, Civic Administration Building, Church St, Dubbo; and
- Nature Conservation Council, Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown.

Submissions can be made on line and can be viewed on the department’s website unless confidentiality is requested.

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.

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