Media release

Thursday, 30 January 2014

**Independent Planning Assessment Commission approves Warkworth extension**

The independent NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) has approved a modification to the Warkworth Coal Mine in the Upper Hunter, subject to strict conditions.

The PAC’s conditions include implementing a biodiversity offset strategy and accelerating the rehabilitation of the South Pit Area of the site.


During its assessment of the project, the PAC held a public meeting in Singleton, accepted public submissions and consulted directly with a range of stakeholders.

The approved modification represents a roughly one per cent increase to Warkworth’s current mining footprint that was approved in 2003.

The modification is separate to the Warkworth Extension Project application, which is currently subject to a NSW Supreme Court appeal.

The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure publicly exhibited the modification application last November, receiving more than 1,100 submissions – mostly in support of the project.

The department’s assessment report, which recommended that the PAC approve the project, showed that the proposed extension would have a negligible impact on noise, air quality, visual amenity and water resources – and that employment benefits were substantial.


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