Mineral sands mine approval to bring hundreds of jobs to western NSW

Hundreds of jobs are expected to flow to Balranald Shire following the approval of an almost $200 million mineral sands mine by the Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) today.

Cristal Mining’s application to construct and operate the new Atlas-Campaspe Mineral Sands Project has been approved subject to conditions and with support of the community.

DP&E Executive Director Chris Wilson said the approval of this project will yield positive flow-on effects for Balranald with 200 jobs needed during operation and another 300 jobs required for construction. It will also result in social benefits to the state.

“After a comprehensive assessment process, with submissions only expressing support for the project, we concluded the project should go ahead with strict conditions,” Mr Wilson said.

The approval will see the extraction of 109 million tonnes of mineral sands ore at an extraction rate of 7.2 million tonnes a year over 20 years, producing $95 million in state royalties.

The department’s assessment concluded that the benefits of the projects outweighed any other impacts, all of which can be managed by conditions.

The biodiversity offset strategy recommendation includes extensive native vegetation management adjacent to the mine, Mungo National Park and Mungo State Conservation Area.

Road maintenance contributions to Balranald and Central Darling Shire Council have also been recommended to ensure all affected local and regional roads can accommodate changes in traffic.

The project also requires the construction of associated rail load-out facility at Ivanhoe where the transferral of materials from the Atlas-Campaspe Project to Cristal Mining’s established minerals processing centres at Broken Hill will take place.

DP&E received a total of 30 submissions from the public and government agencies – all of which were supportive.

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