Monday, 30 June 2014

**Assessment of Port Waratah coal terminal referred to independent Commission**

The Department of Planning & Environment has referred its preliminary assessment of the Port Waratah coal terminal proposal to the independent Planning Assessment Commission for review.

Port Waratah Coal Services is seeking approval to construct and operate Terminal 4 on Kooragang Island, with up to 70 million tonnes of coal to be exported from the facility each year.

The department’s assessment found the project could proceed, with strict conditions put in place to minimise potential impacts on air quality, biodiversity and local communities.

As part of its proposal, the proponent has developed a range of biodiversity mitigation measures in consultation with the department, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth.

These include measures to protect the Green and Golden Bell Frog and direct biodiversity offsets comprising 851 hectares.

Under the Minister’s terms of reference for the PAC review, the Commission will hold a public hearing – ensuring that the community has another opportunity to raise any concerns they may have.

Members of the public can register with the PAC to make a presentation during the public hearing and any issues raised will be considered by the Commission as part of its review of the merits of the project.

Following its review the Commission will report back to the Department on its findings and recommendations, with this information helping the Department finalise its assessment.

After receiving the Department’s final assessment, the Planning Assessment Commission will determine the proposal.

The department’s preliminary assessment and further information on the project is available at: [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au)

Further information about the PAC review can be found at: [www.pac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au)

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