Friday 12 September 2014

Independent decision for Russell Vale coal mine proposal

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) has referred assessment of Wollongong Coal’s application for limited longwall mining at the Russell Vale Colliery to the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

DP&E has recommended the modification be approved, with strict conditions to ensure regular monitoring and reporting of environmental considerations and careful environmental management.

A DP&E spokesperson said the proposed modification would allow mining in the first 400 metres of the area known as 'longwall six'.

“The proposal does not increase the mine’s existing limit of one million tonnes of coal per year and does not involve any vegetation clearing,” the spokesperson said.

“The proposed layout of the mine has been changed to limit the impacts on upland swamps. The remaining impacts on the two overlying swamps are expected to be minor. Conditions imposed on the proposal would mean that all impacts would be closely monitored.

“We’ve also looked closely at the potential impact on nearby creeks and found it is not likely to be significant, but strict monitoring requirements will be in place if the proposal goes ahead.

“Additionally, unlocking the resources in this area of the mine would mean it could continue to employ its 300 workers.

“As with all mining proposals, the independent PAC will now make a determination at arm’s length from government.”

This proposal is not related to the mine’s Underground Expansion Project, which is currently being assessed and will also be determined independent from the Government by the PAC.

More information on the proposal, including DP&E’s assessment report, can be found at majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

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