Changes to Narrabri Coal Mine approved

The Department of Planning and Environment has approved a modification application from Narrabri Coal Mine’s approval to change the underground layout of the mine.

The application included reducing the number of longwall panels from 26 to 20 and increasing the width of fourteen of the remaining longwall panels from 295 metres to 400 metres. The underground mining area will be extended by 60 metres to the west.

The proposal also included increasing coal production from eight million tonnes to 11 million tonnes per year and increase train movements from the site from three to four trains per day.

As well as improving operational efficiency, the modification will provide an increase in annual royalties to the NSW Government and economic stimulus to the regional economy.

The application was made available for comment in October this year and received no objections, with no public submissions and 11 submissions from Government agencies.

The company is required to:

- provide water to any landowners whose water supply is adversely impacted
- adjust the scale of its operations to ensure it matches the available water supply.

“The site will be subject to on-going audits and site inspections by the Department’s compliance officers to ensure the company is adhering to its consent conditions,” a spokesperson for the Department of Planning and Environment said.

“The Department can issue the highest on-the-spot fines in the country for breaches of conditions.

“Companies can also be prosecuted in court for breaching conditions, with the most severe breaches attracting fines of up to $5 million.”

The Department’s determination and assessment report can be found at www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

Department of Planning and Environment media contact: (02) 9228 6128