Call for community feedback on the Mount Owen mine expansion proposal

A proposal to extend the operating life of the Mount Owen mine located 20 kilometres northwest of Singleton is now on exhibition for community feedback.

The Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) is seeking views on the Mt Owen Continuation Project, which includes:

- expanding the existing open cut mine to extract an additional 92 million tonnes of coal
- extending the life of the open cut mine by approximately 12 years (to 2030)
- duplicating the existing Mount Owen mine rail spur which connects to the Main Northern Railway line and is used for transporting coal from the site
- using the existing overland conveyor to transfer gravel and coal to Liddell Coal Min
- upgrading Hebden Road and other mining-related infrastructure on the site

A spokesperson for DP&E said input from the local community would be considered during the assessment of the application.

“The mining company must provide a justification for the mine expansion and address its impacts on environmental factors like air quality, noise, water and biodiversity, as well as potential impacts on the community associated with traffic and visual amenity. All of these issues will be considered by the Department during the assessment,” the spokesperson said.

“I encourage the community to have a look at the proposal and share their thoughts.”

To view the Development Application, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and other documents visit http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=search&status_id=6 from Tuesday 20 January 2015. Submissions on the project can also be made via this site until Friday 6 March 2015.

Written submissions can be made to:

Att: Manager, Mining Projects
Planning Services,
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001
The EIS is also available to view in person at:

- Department of Planning & Environment: Information Centre, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney (1300 305 695);
- Singleton Council: Administration Centre, Cnr Queen Street & Civic Avenue, Singleton (6578 7290); and
- Nature Conservation Council: Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown (9516 1488)

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