Tuesday 28 July 2015

**Improving mining regulation in NSW: Stage 2**

The Department of Planning and Environment today released a number of guidelines for public feedback, which provide clear and consistent requirements for State significant mining development in NSW.

The guidelines are part of the broader Integrated Mining Policy, and include:

- **Independent Audit Guidelines** – to ensure that independent audits of State significant developments in NSW adopt a consistent approach and meet minimum standards.

- **Web-based Reporting Guidelines** – to encourage operators to apply a consistent approach to the publication of information regarding mining operations and make more information available to the public.

- **Annual Review Guidelines** – to assist operators of State significant mining developments to prepare annual reviews.

- **Water Regulation and Policy** – to provide an overview of the current policies and regulations in relation to possible water impacts from mining and petroleum developments in NSW.

- **Planning Agreement Guidelines** – to assist councils and mining companies in negotiating planning agreements for State significant mining developments.

A spokesperson said this was the second stage of the Integrated Mining Policy’s exhibition and gave the community and industry a chance to provide feedback on the draft documents.

“These Guidelines and policy documents will help major mining projects operate safely and comply with their approval conditions,” the spokesperson said.

This is part of a suite of mining policy reforms. The first stage of the Integrated Mining Policy, focussing on applying stringent, clear and consistent requirements to mining applications was released in May for public comment. The Department is currently considering feedback.

In addition, the NSW Government also released a draft amendment to the state policy governing mining in NSW – the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) known as the Mining SEPP.

The draft amendment would remove a provision making the significance of the resource the principal consideration under the Mining SEPP when determining mining projects. It was on exhibition for public feedback this month and the Department is currently considering the feedback.
The exhibition of the Integrated Mining Policy Stage 2 is open until 7 September.

To give feedback visit www.planning.nsw.gov.au/onexhibition

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