Mandalong mine extension proposal referred to Planning Assessment Commission

The final decision on a proposal to expand the Mandalong Coal Mine on the Central Coast will be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).

The Department of Planning and Environment referred the proposal to the Commission for independent determination, with a recommendation that it be approved with strict conditions to control potential impacts of:

- Subsidence
- Noise
- Air quality
- Water
- Biodiversity
- Aboriginal cultural heritage.

“The company says that the proposed mine extension would increase its current workforce from 315 to 420, as well as creating at least another 280 indirect jobs in the region,” a Department spokesperson said.

“The project would see $265 million of capital expenditure, all within NSW, and $379 million in wages over the life of the project.

“As well as the local benefits, NSW would receive around $341 million in royalties from the coal, which could be spent on vital services across the state, such as schools and hospitals.”

“This is a significant additional economic benefit to NSW for the project’s 25 year life.”

The extension proposal has been through a rigorous assessment process following the exhibition of the EIS in late 2013. The Department received 202 submissions during the exhibition, with the vast majority in support of the project.

“The Department carefully considered the submissions from the community and government agencies, the applicant’s response, as well as analysis by independent experts, while assessing the proposal,” the spokesperson said.

“We believe that the residual impacts of the mine can be appropriately managed to acceptable levels by applying strict conditions of consent, and our compliance officers are there to ensure that the company abides by the rules.”

A previous review of the project by the PAC found that the project was approvable, as long as strict conditions are applied. The PAC will now make the final determination, taking into account the Department’s recommendation, community feedback and its own expert analysis.
To read the Department's assessment of the proposed extension, visit www.majorprojects.nsw.gov.au

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