Jobs spared by mining approval

A plan to save the jobs of almost 100 workers from Newcastle’s Newstan Colliery by increasing production at Myuna mine has been approved by the Department of Planning and Environment.

“The owners of Newstan have stopped producing coal at the mine due to the downturn in the market, which put jobs at serious risk,” a Department spokesperson said.

“The approval now allows the majority of those jobs to be transferred to Myuna Colliery near Lake Macquarie.

“We know that many people in the Hunter rely on mining for their livelihood, so losing that many full time positions would have a serious impact on hundreds of local families.”

The approved proposal allows production at Myuna to increase to three million tonnes every year and for the extra coal to be transported by conveyor belt to nearby Eraring Power Station.

“The proposal does not require any new infrastructure or upgrades, so the surrounding community will not be affected by any construction,” a spokesperson said.

The proposal was put on public exhibition in late 2014 and received 23 submissions, including 11 from the general public. Of the 11 submissions, ten supported the proposal.

“The production increase has been approved under the same strict conditions that already apply to the existing mine to ensure dust, noise, environmental and visual impacts are minimised,” the spokesperson said.

To view the Department’s assessment of the proposal visit

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