Thursday, 14 May 2015

**Have your say on the Drayton South Coal Project**

A proposal to establish a new open cut mining area at the existing Drayton Coal Mine, 13 kilometres south of Muswellbrook, will be on exhibition from today for community feedback.

The Department of Planning and Environment is keen to hear the community’s views on the application to:

- develop a new open cut mining area to the south of the existing mine to extract up to 6.4 million tonnes of coal a year for the next 15 years
- minor changes to existing mine to extract an extra 1.4 million tonnes of coal per year
- continuing the existing processing and transport operations to support the Drayton South mining area throughout its life, using existing and new infrastructure
- relocating the southern end of Edderton Road.

There have been some changes since the last proposal. For example, the new proposal increases the buffer between the new mining area and nearby horse studs.

A spokesperson for the Department of Planning and Environment said the local community always has an opportunity to share their views about mining proposals.

“Community consultation is an integral part of the planning process and the applicant must respond to issues raised in submissions. This is considered by the Department when assessing a proposal,” the spokesperson said.

“The applicant will have to respond to the feedback we receive and this is taken into consideration when we develop our recommendations.

“It’s easy to participate by going online and we encourage everyone to take a look and have their say.”

The proposal is of national environmental significance due to its potential environmental and social impacts and will be also be assessed by the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment.

To make a submission or view the environmental impact statement, visit [www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au). Submissions can be made until Friday 19 June.

Written submissions can also be made to:

Attn: Planning Services
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

The EIS is also available to view in person at:
• Department of Planning and Environment, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney
• Muswellbrook Shire Council, Administration Centre, 157 Maitland Street, Muswellbrook (6549 3700)
• Nature Conservation Council, Level 2, 5 Wilson Street, Newtown (9516 1488)

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