Independent planning decision for Mt Thorley Warkworth mine

A final decision on the application to extend the Mt Thorley and Warkworth mines will be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission.

The Department of Planning and Environment has completed an assessment following a second review of the proposal by the Commission, and has responded to the matters raised by the Commission.

A spokesperson said the Department has recommended the Commission approve the proposal subject to a range of strengthened conditions.

The recommended conditions require the proponent to:
- comply with strict noise and dust limits
- operate a real-time environmental monitoring system in Bulga village and surrounds
- regularly report to Government and the local community about the environmental impact of the mine
- protect at least 2,900 hectares of biodiversity offset land in the region, including 1,300 hectares of land adjacent to the Goulburn River National Park
- establish 1,600 hectares of woodland on the site upon completion of mining
- lodge a $1 million bond with the NSW Government to ensure the successful regeneration of the endangered Warkworth Sands Woodland
- establish an Aboriginal cultural heritage conservation area and contribute $700,000 for managing historic heritage values in the locality
- contribute $11 million to Singleton Council for community enhancement projects focusing on Bulga village.

“The Department’s assessment found that through the implementation of strict conditions the impacts of the project can be effectively managed, including in Bulga village,” the spokesperson said.

“The Department also concluded that the project would result in a range of broad economic benefits for the region, including ongoing employment for the 1,300 people that work at the mine.”

The Commission will now make a final determination about whether the project should be allowed to proceed.

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