Northern Coal Logistics project approved

The Department of Planning and Environment has approved an application by Centennial Coal to upgrade infrastructure to process and transport coal from its Lake Macquarie mines.

The project is worth more than $194 million and will provide 120 on-going jobs and 195 jobs during construction. It involves the upgrade of:

- Coal processing
- Private haul roads
- Rail loading and delivery infrastructure and equipment

This upgrade improves integration of the processing of coal from Centennial Coal’s three mines – Newstan, Awaba and Mandalong to allow the processing of larger volumes of coal for the domestic and international markets.

A spokesperson for the Department said that conditions regarding water and air quality were imposed in direct response to issues raised by submissions.

“The Lake Macquarie area has a long history of mining. This project is a logical extension supporting the expansion of Newstan and Mandalong,” the spokesperson said.

“The infrastructure upgrade was thoroughly and transparently assessed by the Department with strict conditions in place to protect water quality, dust levels, traffic, noise and water impacts.”

An automated coal recovery and train loading system will be put in place to help reduce dust levels, as coal production increases.

The coal transported from Northern Coal Logistics is exported, as well as used by NSW power stations to provide electricity.

The proposal was publicly exhibited in October and November 2014 and received 228 submissions, with only six public submissions opposed to the project.

For more information about the proposal and to view the Department’s assessment of the project, visit www.majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au.

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