Consultation on new economic mining assessment guidelines

The NSW Government and community will receive clearer information on potential impacts of mining and coal seam gas proposals under new guidelines, released today for public consultation by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The draft Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Projects are intended to ensure applicants provide more robust and consistent information as part of their broader Environmental Impact Statement.

“This will help the NSW Government and the public weigh up the economic, community and environmental impacts of mining proposals” a Department spokesperson said.

“The draft guidelines have a greater focus on the effects that a project may have on the local community, as well as the benefits and costs for the state more broadly.”

The draft guidelines will not reduce environmental standards or community consultation requirements.

The draft Guidelines have also been peer reviewed and the Department has sought feedback from the Environment Protection Authority.

Submissions and comments are being invited from industry, community groups and individuals during the exhibition period, which runs until November 24.

The draft guidelines can be viewed at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals