Industry and community confidence in mining boosted

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment today announced the publication of the first four Integrated Mining Policy guidelines.

These whole of Government guidelines aim to:

- improve the regulation and assessment of major mining projects
- help manage the environmental and social impacts of mining
- ensure the community has access to relevant and timely information about mining projects.

A Departmental spokesperson said the NSW Government had listened to community and industry stakeholders who raised concerns that the system is too complicated and difficult to navigate.

“Importantly, the Integrated Mining Policy does not reduce environmental standards or community consultation requirements in an industry that creates thousands of NSW jobs and stimulates the economy,” the spokesperson said.

The following guidelines were finalised today:

- **Mine Application Guideline** – requires proponents to describe their mining proposal, both to the Government and the community, in a way that more clearly explains what is being proposed and how the mine design has been developed to avoid, minimise or mitigate potential impacts.
- **Web based Reporting Guideline** – encourages operators to publish appropriate operational details on their website in a clear and transparent manner.
- **Independent Audit Guideline** – ensures that independent audits (used by the Government to help ensure that approval conditions for mining operations are being complied with are conducted in a consistent and transparent manner.
- **Water Regulation Overview** – provides a summary of water policy, legislation and regulation that applies to resources developments in NSW.

The Integrated Mining Policy products were exhibited for public comment in two stages in mid-2015. The final guidelines take these comments into account and have been amended as appropriate.

The other Integrated Mining Policy guidelines from Stage 1 and 2 are currently being finalised while the Economic Guidelines – which form the final component of the Policy are on exhibition until 24 November.

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