

Media release



Tuesday 26 September 2017

Wallarah proposal referred for independent consideration

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project has been referred to the independent Planning Assessment Commission for determination.

The proposal, submitted by the Wyong Areas Coal Joint Venture, is to develop and operate an underground coal mine near Wyong on the NSW Central Coast.

Executive Director of Resource Assessments and Compliance, Dr Oliver Holm said the Department had referred the assessment to the Commission for a final decision.

“Following a second merit review by the Commission in May this year, the Department finalised its assessment, addressing the Commission’s recommendations and has referred it to the independent Commission for final decision,” Dr Holm said.

“The Department remains satisfied that the project is in the public interest, and is approvable, subject to the draft conditions of consent.

“We amended and strengthened the draft conditions in response to the Commission’s recommendations.

“The project will provide real and significant economic and social benefits for the Central Coast region and for NSW as a whole, with employment opportunities for around 450 people during construction and 300 during operations.”

An initial proposal was referred to the Commission for merit review in 2014. The Commission made 35 recommendations to avoid, mitigate or manage the project’s predicted impacts and considered that, if adopted, there would be merit in the project proceeding.

An amended proposal was submitted to the Department in 2016 and publicly exhibited in July for a six-week period attracting around 680 public and agency submissions during the exhibition.

The Department has carefully considered community feedback and the Commission’s recommendations from the 2014 and 2017 merit reviews in finalising the assessment report.

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