

Friday, 3 March 2017

### **Strong conditions recommended for revised Wallarah 2 proposal**

Conditions addressing the Central Coast's water resources have been attached to the Department of Planning and Environment's assessment of the updated Wallarah 2 Coal Project proposal.

The independent Planning Assessment Commission (the Commission) will now review the Department's assessment report which finds the proposed underground mine near Wyong could be approved, with an extensive 78 conditions recommended.

Dr Oliver Holm, Executive Director of Resource Assessments and Compliance, said the Department has carefully considered the revised proposal along with the Commission's first review of the original proposal in 2014, especially recommendations regarding water and subsidence.

"We support the Commission's recommendations and have now strengthened the conditions in our current assessment," Dr Holm said.

"This is in direct response to the Commission's review and the community's feedback during the public exhibition period.

"New conditions recommended to the Commission by the Department include intensive and comprehensive monitoring of water resources, as well as independent audits of subsidence, surface water and groundwater.

"The company should also be required to closely monitor subsidence and be prepared with Trigger Action Response Plans for the proposed mine's longwalls.

"There are also a suite of conditions to manage air quality, noise, impacts to landscape views, biodiversity and Aboriginal heritage.

"While the updated proposal changed the way the company plans to transport coal from the mine site, the main elements of the original 2012 application remain the same, such as the proposed mine area, mining methods, production rate and mine site infrastructure.

"The Department continues to support the project's potential to create 300 operational jobs, 450 construction jobs, to stimulate the regional Central Coast economy, and to provide \$5 million worth of contributions to Central Coast Council for projects benefitting the local community and environment," he said.

"We made sure we undertook an updated assessment of the economic and social benefits of the project under newer and more robust NSW Government guidelines.

“As part of the independent Commission’s second review, a public hearing will be arranged in the near future.”

More than 680 submissions were received by the Department during the public exhibition period last year. All were closely considered by the Department in its assessment.

To read the Department’s report on the updated proposal, visit the Department’s Major Projects website

[http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\\_job&job\\_id=4974](http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=4974)

**Department of Planning and Environment media contact (02) 9274-6128**