

Water monitoring continues



The Wyong Water Study (WWS) was commissioned by the NSW Government in 2010 to determine independently whether there was sufficient data available for assessing the potential impacts of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project.

The WWS concluded that "The baseline information is sufficient for the purposes of undertaking an assessment of the potential impacts of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project". The WWS also concluded that "The amount and quality of data is equal to or greater than for similar areas of agricultural, natural or water supply catchments."

Subsequently the Department of Planning's 2011 assessment found that "the risk to the Central Coast's water supply as a result of the project to be minimal and manageable" and did not consider the water supply to be an issue preventing project approval.

The WWS also recommended that a more detailed monitoring network may be required if the project is approved. In anticipation, the Wallarah 2 Coal Project had already installed five new water monitoring bores during 2010 to provide even further monitoring data on the alluvial water regime across the Dooralong Valley.

Monitoring from these bores commenced in April 2010, over two years ago, and this information will be added to the extensive data set available for evaluation in the new application. The Wallarah 2 Coal Project team is confident that with the data included in the new application the company will have even stronger evidence demonstrating that the region's water supply will be protected.

Details of the Wyong Water Study are available from NSW Planning's website www.planning.nsw.gov.au or from the Wallarah 2 office.

Briefings for representative groups

W2CP has been busy conducting briefings to representative organisations.

Among those briefed have been Wyong Shire, Gosford City and Lake Macquarie City Councils and the Central Coast Water Authority.

General Manager, Kerry Heywood, said the briefings were designed to help councillors and senior officers understand progress on the project in terms of additional studies and planning as required by the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

"Councillors are very much focussed on protection of the water regimes as is the Wallarah team. I have been able to confirm again that it is our commitment that the only proposal we will put to the Government is a mine plan that protects the water regimes."

"We have spent more than 15 years researching and studying the coal reserves, the local and regional environments and much more. We have an unequalled body of knowledge about the geology of the area and how the water regimes interact."

Some facts and figures

- Exploration commenced in 1995
- Over 160,000m of drillholes
- Over \$90 million expenditure to date
- 5 million tonnes a year deep longwall mining operation
- This is not a coal seam gas project
- Minimal surface footprint/impact
- Around 40 year mine life

Open house and buying local



The core shed at the W2CP facilities is usually the quietest of places as the home of more than 160 kilometres of drilled core but recently it has been the scene of much activity.

As reported in the previous newsletter the shed is now also home to the Central Coast Poultry Club auctions and it has also hosted members of the public attending W2CP Open House sessions.

People attending Open House sessions have had the opportunity to speak with specialists members of the W2CP team about topics as diverse as subsidence, water

management, Aboriginal heritage and employment.

The company also participated in the very successful 2012 Buy Local Festival expo that was held at North Wyong in May. More than 150 people spoke with project team members during the two days.

Visitors at the Buy Local Festival also took the opportunity to talk about a range of topics concerning the proposal. The company recorded more than 20 registrations from businesses and individuals who are interested in providing goods and services and skills during both the construction of the mine and operations.

Step by Step to approvals

The NSW planning approvals process for projects such as the W2CP provides on-going opportunities for community contribution and engagement.

W2CP has established a Community Reference Group of volunteer representatives. Six members of the wider community together with representatives of Wyong Council, NSW Business Chamber Central Coast, Wyong Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council are contributing to the group.

The planning process has a number of major formal steps to be completed that include:

- Issuing of Department of Planning and Infrastructure Director-General Requirements (DGRs) in January 2012
- **Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to satisfy DGRs**
- Lodgement of EIS by company
 - Evaluation of EIS by Department of adequacy
- Exhibition of EIS
 - Community comments to Department
 - Responses by company to comments
- Assessment
 - Planning Assessment Commission (PAC)
- Determination by Minister, delegated to a second PAC panel.

There are a number of processes within each of these major steps.

If you would like more information or have a question to ask you are most welcome. Our contact details are below.

Contact Us

We hope you find this newsletter valuable but as always we welcome your inquiries and comments that you can direct by:

Telephone: 02 4352 7500
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Our offices are at 25 Bryant Drive Tuggerah and you are most welcome to visit but it is advisable to telephone first to ensure the person who can best help is available.