

PRESS RELEASE



25 Bryant Drive
Tuggerah, NSW 2259

PO Box 43
Wyong, NSW 2259

Phone. 02 4352 7500

Fax. 02 4353 5699

Email. info@wallarah.com.au

26 September 2006

Mine commitment to safeguard water

Wallarrah 2 Coal Project today declared the only mine plan it would submit to the NSW Government would be one that safeguarded the Wyong surface and underground water regimes.

The declaration comes as part of a "Statement of Commitment to the Community".

The Manager Environment and Community, Peter Smith, said the company would not mine beneath the Mangrove Creek Dam catchment or Mardi Dam, nor under the Wyong River, Wyong Weir, Ourimbah Creek, Porters Creek Wetland or related water facilities and infrastructure.

Mr Smith said the company well understood the concerns in some parts of the local community about potential impacts on the water supplies, particularly in a period of drought and water restrictions.

Mr Smith said that employees and consultants presently conducting the more than 20 environmental and engineering studies have always understood that during development and operations of the mine that the water regimes must be safeguarded.

"This has been a commitment from day one of this project but we believe it appropriate to renew now because of the present concern in NSW about drought and water supplies."

"Indeed, we intend to put a plan to the Government in which there is minimum adverse impact on the environment and which will make the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine a valued contributor to the local community and economy."

Mr Smith said the Statement of Commitments also included:

- The company will conduct its business in a manner that at all times respects the people of the Wyong community.

www.wallarrah.com.au

Sustaining energy for the future

- The company considers the protection of the environment as an important part of its normal business activities.
- The company will conduct its business in a way that maintains a safe and healthy workplace for employees, visitors and the local community
- The company will develop and implement stringent environmental management practices and will establish enduring programs that will contribute to the interests of the wider community both now and in the future.

He said an illustration of how the company might implement the last point was how it would handle water generated in the mine from deep aquifers. Investigations to date indicated that there would be water surplus to the need for dust control and other surface uses at the mine so it would be treated and provided to the local water authority for use, probably by other industries and thus reduce the overall demand on general water supplies.

Mr Smith said research was continuing to assess any impact on water regimes.

Mr Smith said the company would deliver its Statement of Commitments to the NSW Government, Wyong Shire Council, the Joint Water Authority, the Community Liaison Committee and to residents of the valleys. It would also make it available to wider community through the company newsletter and website.

For further information: Peter Smith 43527500 or 0412 574 650