

Media statement
30 March 2010

EA says mine will not threaten Region's water supply

The environmental assessment of the most extensively researched and examined proposed coal mine, the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project, will go on formal exhibition and be available to the community from tomorrow.

The proposed mine will bring 300 direct jobs, 700 additional jobs and more than \$1 billion investment to the Central Coast in the first three years of construction alone.

The proposed mine will extract when fully operational about 5 million tonnes of coal each year which will be trained to the Port of Newcastle for export.

Miners will access the working via a surface facility at Buttonderry near the Wyong Waste Disposal Centre while coal would be brought to the surface near the junction of the F3 and the Motorway link road via one of Australia's longest mining tunnels. The coal will not require treatment so there will be no washery or associated water demand and tailings dam.

Project Environment and Community Manger, Peter Smith, said community interest has focussed on whether the project could be developed without adverse impacts on the region water supply system.

"We are pleased to show in this environmental assessment that as we promised the proposal we have submitted to the Department of Planning is one that safeguards the region's water supply from potential mining impacts.

"We can do this because of the blending of three essential elements. The first is the geological makeup of the area above where we plan to extract coal in that the geology precludes direct interaction between the coal mining that will be between 350 and 600 metres deep and surface and important sub0-surface waters.

"The second is that the mine plan has been designed to avoid adverse impacts on both the water supply sources and the infrastructure of the water supply scheme."

Mr Smith said the third protection for the water regimes was the extraordinary level of scientific research, and exhaustive body of knowledge about water regimes and the pubic examination and assessment of this information.

Mr Smith the exhibition of the Environmental Assessment would be from March 31 to June 2. Copies were available at Department of planning offices as well as Wyong Council and online at the department or www.wallarah.com.au

For further in formation: Peter Smith 0412574650

Note to news editors: The Wyong Coal Joint Venture is happy to provide additional information or clarifications and explanation of this four volume document.

You are most welcome to contact Peter Smith on his mobile. Our offices are at Bryant Road Tuggerah (near the car park for the Tuggerah Rail Station)

The company has produced a CD of the EA as well as a short DVD on the proposal and parts of this might provide useful to some media in presentation of news. Illustrations from the EA can also be made available if that would be helpful.