



Media statement

5 May 2010

Council assured water is protected

Some of the experts involved in assessing environmental impacts of the proposed Wallarah 2 Coal Project have told Wyong Council officers and consultants engaged by Council that the Joint Venture can fulfil its commitment to develop a mine and safeguard the region's water regimes.

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project team and experts in subsidence and water told a day long briefing and inspection by council officers and consultants that exhaustive research and testing had provided the basis on which that commitment was made.

Wallarrah 2 Environment and Community Manager, Peter Smith, said today that experts would also brief members of the Community Liaison Committee next week.

"Council officers with responsibilities in planning, traffic, water, engineering and other fields together with specialist consultants in environmental matters attended the briefing."

"We made our commitment on safeguarding water some time ago and the full investigation work is available in the Environmental Assessment report (EA) now on exhibition," Mr Smith said.

The evidence was clear that because of the depth of proposed mine workings, the nature of the region's geology and the careful design of the mine plan there was no threat to the region's water supply scheme or those underground water sources used by others, he said.

Mr Smith said the 20 expert companies that had developed each of the necessary assessments for the EA were among the best in the Australia and some were regarded as among the best in the world.

He said members of the community were encouraged to consider the EA and make comment if they wished. The 3500 page EA was available in available in hard copy and on disk from the company and was on exhibition at Wyong Council and the Department of Planning. It was on line at the department's website and at www.wallarah.com.au The exhibition period closes on June 2.

Mr Smith said that following the exhibition and comment period the State Government would appoint a special panel which would hold an inquiry before making recommendations to the Minister for Planning.

For further information: Peter Smith 0412 574 650

Some facts about the project:

- The proposed production is 5 million tonnes a year. (Numbers of mines in the Hunter Valley each produce three and four times as much per year)
- There will be no mining under Wyong river
- There will be no mining beneath any parts of the infrastructure of the Central Coast Water Supply Scheme
- There will not be a coal washery
- Coal will be handled only at the industrial site at the junction of the F3 and Motorway Link road next to the clay quarry with distribution by rail .