

Media statement
5 November 2007

Dust and noise from mine will not adversely impact Blue Haven

Extensive studies and research have shown that dust and noise emissions from the proposed surface facilities of the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine will be well within State Government regulations and will not impact the community of Blue Haven.

Walarah 2 Environment and Community Manager, Peter Smith, said that even in the worst-case scenario of westerly winds the dust measurement (known as PM10) would remain within the surface facilities site.

"Residents are understandably concerned but now that final investigations and planning are nearing completion we are in a position to explain how these emissions will not reach their community," Mr Smith said.

He said he had recently briefed the Community Liaison Committee but was disappointed that this information had not been passed on to the community constituents by the Committee members.

"Coal will come to the surface close to the intersection of the F3 and the Motorway link and be moved via covered and low level conveyors to the stockpile and then on to trains. This management process and the fact that this coal does not need washing help to ensure dust emissions are low."

Mr Smith said some residents had thought that the surface facilities might generate the kinds of dust levels that they were familiar with from open cut mining operations.

"Operations at the surface facilities of an underground mine are very different from the work of open cut mines."

Mr Smith said the studies by noise experts also showed that in the worst case scenario of westerly winds that noise emissions from the operations would be well below NSW permissible standards.

"Noise emissions from the site will diminish to below the noise in a relatively quiet room long before they could reach homes at Blue Haven."

Mr Smith said that these results, together with results from all water studies, provided the company with the confidence that it will be able to propose a mine plan that could be integrated into the Wyong economy and social and physical environments, including the safeguarding of the water supply system.

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