



Wallarrah 2 confident mine Will be approved

The Wyong Coal Joint Venture is confident it can win approval for the proposed Wallarah 2 coal mine on merit, the Manager Environment and Community, Peter Smith said today.

"This has been the most extensively studied project and there is no doubt that we can satisfy the standards of environmental standards expected by the NSW government."

"The company begins today to finalise all our investigations and studies to ensure that we will satisfy the Director General Requirements (DGR's), which are what must be satisfied in our Environmental Assessment (EA) report.

"We look forward to the robust approvals process as announced by the Minister. "

He said he expected the finalisation of the EA would take a few months.

Mr Smith said the company had set internal standards for the many investigations and studies that it believed were beyond what the community and the Government might ask and this was part of the reason it could go forward with confidence.

"We made the decisions that we would not even propose to mine beneath any of the region's water supply infrastructure and that our surface facilities would be designed and managed in ways that ensured they sit well within industrial areas and that any impacts such as dust and noise are contained pretty much on site."

Mr Smith said the proposed mine plan took into account all surface structures including homes, facilities including roads and bridges, land use and most importantly water regimes to minimise the effects of subsidence.

Mr Smith said about 30 experts would now undertake both field and desk analysis to finalise their work to ensure up to date information is available and in accordance with the DGR's.

"This mine proposal is the most exhaustively examined in NSW and has been subject to an extraordinary examination through the 2007 Strategic Inquiry in to mining in the Wyong Local Government Area."

Mr Smith said Director General requirements outlined specific matters which the Government required to be addressed by a proponent. In this case there will be requirements covering more than 80 other generic topics.

The Environmental Assessment, which will comprise a few thousand pages, will report on studies covering such topics as economic impacts, dust and noise emissions, effects on water regimes, both surface and sub-surface, transport, ecology, social and many more.

The economic impact assessment has already shown that in its first three year of construction alone the mine would generate more than \$1 billion into the local economy and generate more than 1800 jobs.

“Every effort will be made to make as much information as possible available to the community but it should be noted that the EA will comprise several volumes. The report will contain several volumes and include both technical and non-technical descriptions of the key issues.”

For further information: Peter Smith 0412 574 650