



MEDIA RELEASE

Bioregional Assessment Welcomed by Wallarah 2 Project

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project has welcomed the publication of the Bioregional Assessment for the Hunter sub-region, which was released today (Friday 1 June 2018).

The Assessment, by the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy, was carried out by the Office of Water Science and the CSIRO Bioregional Assessment team over the past three years.

These Bioregional Assessments are not a substitute for careful assessment of proposed coal projects.

Kenny Barry, Project Manager for Wallarah 2, explained that the Bioregional Assessment “identifies potential issues that may need to be assessed” when considering potential impacts on water resources and water dependent assets.

Barry said that ALL the issues identified in the newly-released Bioregional Assessment had already been studied, considered and assessed at a micro-, local level in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Wallarah proposal.

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project team provided hydrogeological modelling data and its groundwater modelling team to provide details on the extensive exploration and advanced modelling work undertaken for the Project.

The Bioregional Assessment acknowledges the highly detailed studies undertaken for the Wallarah 2 development and the importance of conducting modelling based on detailed on-site studies and research.

For example, the Bioregional Assessment says “*Local geological and hydrogeological information from the proposed Wallarah 2 mining area is used to demonstrate how the results from the regional parameter set can be constrained to better represent the local situation. The use of local information reduces the extent of the predicted drawdown in the Wyong River catchment relative to the regional result set*”.

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For further information contact (Kenny Barry, Phone 4352 7500).

Background

The Hunter Subregion covers an area of 17,045 square kilometres from Murrurundi in the north to the Central Coast in the south. The southernmost tip of the Subregion includes the Wallarah 2 Coal Project, which covers approximately 0.2% of this area.

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project was approved by the Planning & Assessment Commission in January this year. It includes the construction and operation of an underground coal mine and associated infrastructure to extract up to five million tonnes of high-quality thermal coal per year.