



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Contact: Mike Young
Phone: (02) 9228 6481
Fax: (02) 9228 6466
Email: mike.young@planning.nsw.gov.au

Our ref: S02/01497

Mr Keith Ross
Managing Director
Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
PO Box 2440
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

21 November 2006

Dear Mr Ross

**Director-General's Requirements
Proposed Belmont Coal Project**

The Department has received your application for the Belmont Coal Project (reference number: 06_0198).

I have attached a copy of the Director-General's requirements (DGRs) for the project. These requirements have been prepared in consultation with the relevant government authorities, including the Gunnedah Shire Council, and are based on the information you have provided to date. I have also attached a copy of the government authorities' and Council's comments on the proposal for your information.

Please note that under section 75F(3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the Director-General may alter these requirements at any time.

I would appreciate it if you would contact the Department at least two weeks before you propose to submit your Environmental Assessment for the project to determine:

- the fees applicable to the application (\$3,000 has been provided at the time of the Planning Focus Meeting);
- consultation and public exhibition arrangements that will apply; and
- number and format (hard copy or CD-ROM) of the Environmental Assessment that will be required.

As you may know, the Department will review the Environmental Assessment in consultation with the relevant agencies to determine if it adequately addresses the Director-General's requirements. If the Director-General considers the Environmental Assessment to be inadequate, you will be required to revise it prior to public exhibition.

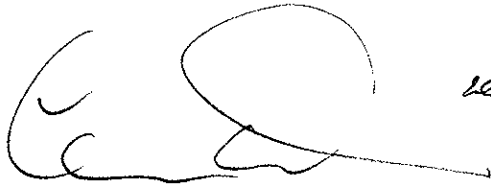
The Director-General's requirements will be placed on the Department's website along with other relevant information which becomes available during the assessment of the project. As a result, the Department would appreciate it if the documents submitted to the Department are in a suitable format for the web. In addition, it would be appreciated if you would arrange for an

electronic version of the Environmental Assessment for the project to be hosted on a website and provide a link to place on the Department's website.

Finally, if your proposal contains any actions that could have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance, it will require an additional approval under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This approval would be in addition to any approvals required under NSW legislation. If you have any questions about the application of the EPBC Act to your proposal, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in Canberra (6274 1111 or <http://www.deh.gov.au>).

If you have any enquiries about these requirements, please contact Mike Young, Manager of the Department's Mining & Extractive Industries team (02 9228 6481).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CW', followed by the date '20.11.08'.

Chris Wilson
Executive Director
Major Project Assessments
as Delegate for the Director-General

Director-General's Requirements

Section 75F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Project	The proposed Belmont Coal Project and associated infrastructure, which includes: • extracting up to 14.2 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal by open cut mining methods at a maximum rate of 1.5 million tonnes a year for up to 12 years; • highwall and/or auger mining; • on site crushing and screening of coal; • construction and operation of mining-related infrastructure on the site; • transportation of coal by road to the Whitehaven Coal Handling and Preparation Plant at Gunnedah; • construction of a new road linking Wean and Blue Vale Roads; and • progressive rehabilitation of the site.
Site	Wean Road, about 25 kilometres north of Gunnedah. Lot 1 DP 754950; Lots 1 and 2 DP 787417; Parish of Tulcumba; and Council roads and road reserves.
Proponent	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
Date of Issue	20 November 2006
Date of Expiration	20 November 2008
General Requirements	The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include • an executive summary; • a detailed description of the project including the: – need for the project; – various components and stages of the project; and – alternatives considered; • consideration of any relevant statutory provisions; • a general overview of the environmental impacts of the project, identifying the key issues for further assessment, and taking into consideration the issues raised during consultation; • a detailed assessment of the key issues specified below, and any other significant issues identified in the general overview of environmental impacts of the project (see above), which includes: – a description of the existing environment; – an assessment of the potential impacts of the project including potential cumulative impacts (particularly on native flora and fauna, and road transport impacts) that may arise from the combined operation of the project, together with the other approved and existing mines in the region; • a description of the measures that would be implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, offset, manage, and/or monitor the impacts of the project, • a draft Statement of Commitments, outlining environmental management, mitigation and monitoring measures; • a conclusion justifying the project, taking into consideration the environmental impacts of the project, the suitability of the site, and the benefits of the project; and • a signed statement from the author of the Environmental Assessment report certifying that the information contained in the report is neither false nor misleading.
Key Issues	• Traffic and Transport – including a detailed quantitative traffic impact assessment of the proposed coal transport route;

	• Surface and Groundwater - including detailed modelling of potential surface and groundwater impacts, a site water balance, and a detailed description of any proposed creek diversions; • Flora and Fauna – including any impacts on critical habitats, threatened species, populations, ecological communities, native vegetation and the Vickery State Forest. A comprehensive offset strategy must be included as part of the mitigation measures for the project to ensure that there is no net loss of flora and fauna values in the area in the medium to long term; • Rehabilitation, Final Landform and Final Void Management – including a justification of the proposed final landform and land use for the site; a detailed description of how the site would be progressively rehabilitated; and the measures which would be put in place for the long term protection and management of the site (and any off-site biodiversity offset areas) following cessation of mining; • Noise – including construction, operation, and off-site road noise impacts; • Blasting and Vibration; • Air Quality; • Greenhouse Gases – including an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions generated by on-site activities and the transport of coal to the Port of Newcastle; • Heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal; • Visual; and • Social and Economic.
References	The Environmental Assessment must take into account relevant State government technical and policy guidelines. While not exhaustive, guidelines which may be relevant to the project are included in the attached list.
Consultation	During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you must consult with the relevant local and State government authorities, service providers, community groups, affected landowners and any affected Commonwealth government authorities. In particular you must consult with: • Department of Environment and Conservation; • Department of Natural Resources; • Department of Primary Industries; • NSW Roads and Traffic Authority; and • Gunnedah Shire Council. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.
Deemed refusal period	60 days

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy / Methodology
Soil and Water	
	• <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • any Water Sharing Plan under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> applicable to the site; • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR);
Flora and Fauna	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI);
Blasting and Vibration	
	• <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC);
Noise	
	• <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC);
Air Quality	
	• <i>Approved Methods and Guidance for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Heritage	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office);
Traffic	
	• <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant AUSTROADS standards;
Greenhouse Gases	
	• <i>Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office); and
Waste	
	• <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC).

State Government Technical and Policy Guidelines - For Reference

Aspect	Policy / Methodology
Soil and Water	
	• <i>Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils & Construction</i> (Landcom); • <i>Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> (ANZECC); • <i>Rehabilitation Manual for Australian Streams</i> (Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation); • the various <i>State Groundwater Policy</i> documents (DNR); • any Water Sharing Plan under the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> applicable to the site; • <i>Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Water Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Guidelines: Use of Effluent by Irrigation</i> (DEC); • <i>NSW Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Policy</i> (DNR);
Flora and Fauna	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment</i> (DEC); • <i>Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and Activities</i> (DEC); • <i>Policy and Guidelines for Fish Friendly Waterway Crossings</i> (DPI);
Blasting and Vibration	
	• <i>Technical Basis for Guidelines to Minimise Annoyance due to Blasting and Ground Vibration</i> (ANZECC);
Noise	
	• <i>NSW Industrial Noise Policy</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise</i> (DEC); • <i>Environmental Noise Control Manual</i> (DEC);
Air Quality	
	• <i>Approved Methods and Guidance for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW</i> (DEC);
Heritage	
	• draft <i>Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment and Community Consultation</i> (DEC); • <i>Assessing Heritage Significance</i> (NSW Heritage Office); • <i>NSW Heritage Manual</i> (NSW Heritage Office);
Traffic	
	• <i>Guide to Traffic Generating Developments</i> (RTA); • <i>RTA Road Design Guide</i> (RTA); • relevant AUSTROADS standards;
Greenhouse Gases	
	• <i>Factors and Methods Workbook</i> (Australian Greenhouse Office); and
Waste	
	• <i>Environmental Guidelines: Assessment and Classification and Management of Liquid and Non-Liquid Wastes</i> (DEC).

Additional requirements in relation to Threatened Species, Flora, Fauna and Endangered Ecological Communities and their habitats of the Belmont Coal proposal.

In summary, the key issues which the EA must focus on are:

- cumulative impacts within the local area;
- the potential impacts on Threatened Species, Flora, Fauna and Endangered Ecological Communities and their habitats;
- the potential impacts on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage; and,
- the potential impacts on adjacent DEC estate.

Concept Plan

The DEC understands that the proponent has now agreed to prepare a Concept Plan for the entire development, rather than preparing seeking project approval for the first stage of the proposal, then conceptual approval for the remaining stages. The DEC supports this approach as it will enable the consideration of the cumulative impact of the entire project.

The DEC has recommended that should the proponent be unable to demonstrate that impacts on threatened species, endangered populations or endangered ecological communities can be avoided or mitigated, a detailed plan demonstrating offset strategies for the residual impacts should be prepared, with the aim of maintaining or improving biodiversity values. Any avoidance, mitigation or offset strategies should be included within the Concept Plan.

Due to the scale of the project, the challenge will be to assess whether the proposed strategies will maintain or improve biodiversity values in the absence of a regional conservation plan for the wider area.

Cumulative impacts

The EA must consider the cumulative impact

Native Vegetation

Impacts of the project on native vegetation

The DEC considers that there is inadequate reservation of woodland vegetation communities in the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion, within which the site of the proposed mine occurs. In NSW, it is estimated that over 60% of native vegetation within this bioregion has been cleared since European settlement.

Due to the high level of clearing and fragmentation of native vegetation in the Gunnedah region, *all* native remnants have very high conservation value (irrespective of their condition) simply due to their current scarcity within the region, and the Brigalow Belt South Bioregion in NSW. The DEC recommends in the strongest terms that certain components of the development (particularly the out of pit dump) be relocated within the project site, allowing the native vegetation remnant in the northern corner of the project

site to remain *undisturbed*. This remnant is of particular value as it is connected to the Vickery State Forest. Native remnants and scattered trees supply fauna habitat and play an important role in providing connectivity across the landscape. Adequate connectivity in the landscape reduces the possibility of small isolated flora and fauna populations occurring.

In addition, the clearing of native vegetation has been listed by the NSW Scientific Committee as a Key Threatening Process (KTP) under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. A process can be listed as a KTP if it adversely affects two or more threatened species, populations or ecological communities; or could cause species, populations or ecological communities that are not threatened to become so. Please note that the '7-part test' under Part 5A of the EP&A Act requires the consideration of KTP's specifically in relation to the type of action proposed. The listing of 'clearing of native vegetation' as a KTP must be considered in deciding whether or not there is likely to be a significant impact on threatened species, communities or their habitat as a result of the proposed mine.

A comprehensive rehabilitation plan should accompany the EIS. This plan should include rehabilitation of all areas impacted by all aspects of the proposal. The plan should also include monitoring procedures for assessment of the effectiveness of revegetation (particularly regarding the provision of fauna habitat), along with measures for ongoing weed control. The plan should contain specifications for revegetation of all disturbed sites using endemic native species of trees, shrubs and grasses as far as possible. The rehabilitation plan should specify and demonstrate methods to ensure that the majority of woody plants to be used in regeneration will be grown from seed collected on site. These revegetated areas should be protected from grazing by both native fauna and domestic stock. However the proposal should be designed such that minimal disturbance of native vegetation occurs (particularly through avoidance of the woodland remnant in the northern corner of the site). Revegetated areas do not necessarily provide the same ecological benefits as uncleared land (ANZECC 2000¹).

Impacts of the project on threatened species, populations, communities and their habitats

The EA must follow the 'Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment'. These guidelines deal specifically with applications under Part 3A of the EP&A Act: A field survey should be conducted and documented in accordance with the guidelines. Likely impacts on threatened species and their habitat need to be assessed, evaluated and reported on. The EA should specifically report on the considerations listed in Step 3 of the draft guidelines. However it should be noted that the assessment criteria listed in Appendix C of that document have now been changed. The new criteria are listed under Part 5A of the EP&A Act.

The EA must describe the actions that will be taken to avoid impacts, or to mitigate unavoidable impacts of the project on threatened species and their habitat. This should include an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these measures are implemented.

¹ ANZECC (2000) *Core Environmental Indicators for Reporting on the State of the Environment*. State of the Environment Reporting Task Force, Canberra.

Step 4 of the draft guidelines requires that where measures to avoid or mitigate are not possible, offset strategies need to be considered. In the event that offset strategies are investigated as part of the Belmont Coal project, the large scale of the proposal and the little potential for offsets within the project site will necessitate consideration of the regional context.

The EA must clearly state whether it meets each of the key thresholds set out in Step 5 of the draft guidelines.

To adequately assess the likely impacts of the development, a full description of the vegetation communities proposed to be disturbed is required. Particular attention should be paid to the assessment of native vegetation for the Endangered Ecological Community, White Box - Yellow Box - Blakely's Red Gum (Box - Gum) Woodland. *State Environmental Planning Policy 44 – Koala Habitat Protection* (SEPP 44) applies to the Gunnedah Local Government Area (LGA). SEPP 44 allows for the preparation of Comprehensive Koala Plans of Management (CKPoM) covering specific sites or entire LGA's where SEPP 44 applies. Hence the EIS must consider the presence of 'potential' and 'core' koala habitat (defined under SEPP 44 by the abundance of scheduled food trees and/or the presence of koalas). Where 'core' habitat is found, SEPP 44 requires the preparation of a CKPoM for the site (if one is not already in place for the entire LGA). The DEC considers that minimising disturbance of existing vegetation, retention of the remnant, and rigorous rehabilitation/revegetation using endemic plant stock would provide a sound basis for a koala habitat management plan under the auspices of SEPP 44.

Impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values

The EA should address and document the information requirements set out in the draft "Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation" involving surveys and consultation with the Aboriginal community. Identify the nature and extent of impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values across the project area (including any potential impact from underground mine subsidence). Describe the actions that will be taken to avoid or mitigate impacts or compensate to prevent unavoidable impacts of the project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values. This should include an assessment of the effectiveness and reliability of the measures and any residual impacts after these measures are implemented.

The EA needs to clearly demonstrate that effective community consultation with Aboriginal communities has been undertaken in determining and assessing impacts, developing options and making final recommendations.

Corridor Values

Vegetated areas adjoining DEC estate play a complimentary role in providing essential linkages for the maintenance of biodiversity and minimise potential edge effects in DEC estate. The vegetated areas may have a role in maintaining the viability of local populations and species and provide valuable wildlife refuge areas. Development in areas of native vegetation adjoining DEC estate can result in fragmentation of habitat corridors or isolation with other areas of native vegetation in the locality.

The EA must consider the corridor values or connective importance of any vegetation on the subject land. The DEC prefers that vegetation on adjoining land that exhibits these corridor values should be retained and, where necessary, rehabilitated.

Reference material

Assessing Threatened Species Impacts

Threatened Biodiversity Survey and Assessment: Guidelines for Development and
Activities' [Nov 2004]

http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/tbsa_guidelines_draft.pdf

Draft Guidelines for Threatened Species Assessment - Available from the Department of
Planning.

Assessing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impacts

**Draft Guidelines For Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and
Community Consultation - Available from Dept of Planning.**

Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants

[http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Protecting+Aboriginal+objects+a
nd+places](http://www3.environment.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Protecting+Aboriginal+objects+and+places)

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Standards and Guidelines Kit - Available shortly on-line
through DEC's webpage.

Colin Phillips - FW: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

From: "Silver - Mike" <michaelsilver@infogunnedah.com.au>
To: <Colin.Phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 27/07/2006 7:46 am
Subject: FW: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.
CC: "Cameron - Caitlin" <Caitlincameron@infogunnedah.com.au>

Colin,

Further to Council's previous advice on this proposal.

Council's advice of 2002 required examination of social impacts on Gunnedah as a consequence of the proposal. Clearly since that time there has been a considerable expansion of coal exploration and development north of Gunnedah around Boggabri in the Narrabri Shire. Notwithstanding the location of much of this development and potential development in another Shire, it is apparent that it is and will continue to have impacts on the Gunnedah community in terms of labour resources, residential capability, service and infrastructure provision as well as a change in community focus and attitude.

Accordingly the examination of social, economic and infrastructure issues needs to be expanded to provide a general overview of the cumulative impacts of coal mining development generally from across the region. Using this as a base, the proponent should analyse the socio-economic implications of this proposal on the Gunnedah Shire having particular regard to availability of labour resources, attraction of skilled labour from existing business, imported labour and the differentials in remuneration as well as the extent to which the proposal will increase demand for services and infrastructure particularly within the town of Gunnedah.

In other areas Council has nothing further to add to its 2002 advice.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Silver

Manager Environment & Development
Gunnedah Shire Council
P.O. Box 63
Gunnedah 2380
Ph: 67402120

Register to D/works

-----Original Message-----

From: Cameron - Caitlin
Sent: Tuesday, 25 July 2006 11:23 AM
To: Silver - Mike
Subject: FW: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

Mike

Colin had a few problems trying to send you this email. Can we please discuss so I know the background of this proposal.

CC

-----Original Message-----

From: Colin Phillips [mailto:Colin.Phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2006 2:13 PM
To: Christie Jackson; julie.moloney@dpi.nsw.gov.au; armidale@environment.nsw.gov.au; Robert OHern;

stephen.odonoghue@environment.nsw.gov.au; michaelsilver@infogunnedah.nsw.gov.au;
greg.sciffer@rta.nsw.gov.au; land_use_northern@rta.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

Dear All,

The Department of planning has received a Part 3A Project Application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) from Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd for the Belmont Coal Project.

The Department intends to issue Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for the project based on the input you have previously provided to the Department under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

I would appreciate your response by email to speed up this process. If there are new matters that should be considered then I am keen to include them in the DGRs. However, I consider this to be unlikely as this will be the third time DGRs would have been issued for the project.

To recap:

1. The Planning Focus Meeting was held in Gunnedah on 8 August 2002.
2. DGRs were issued on 26 August 2004.
3. Whitehaven consulted with Department about re-issuing DGRs in 2004.
4. The Department sent out letters to agencies on 15 July 2005 asking if there were any changes to previous input on the project. (all agencies replied, with RTA being only agency updated their input).
5. Whitehaven have not altered their proposal from the information supplied in 2004. The only development is that the Company has purchased several properties on, or near, the proposed mine site.
6. The Department proposes to re-issue the DGRs, in accordance with Part 3A of the EP&A Act, using the information previously supplied so that an Environmental Assessment Report (rather than an EIS) can be prepared by Whitehaven.

If there are matters you wish to clarify or discuss, please contact me.

Many thanks Colin.

Colin Phillips
Environmental Planning Officer
Mining and Extractive Industries
02 9228 6483
colin.phillips@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential/privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.
Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Department.

You should scan any attached files for viruses.

Colin Phillips - Belmont Coal Proposal

From: Christie Jackson
To: Colin Phillips
Date: 31/07/2006 3:18 pm
Subject: Belmont Coal Proposal

Colin,

The Department of Natural Resources does not wish to update or alter any requirements to the previous DGRs issued for the above proposal.

Kind regards,
Christie

Colin Phillips - RE: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

From: "MOLONEY Julie" <Julie.MOLONEY@dpi.nsw.gov.au>
To: "Colin Phillips" <Colin.Phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 26/07/2006 3:39 pm
Subject: RE: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

Dear Colin

The Department has no additional comments for inclusion of DGRs.

Regards

Julie

Julie Moloney

Senior Project Officer

Minerals Development

Department of Primary Industries
 516 High St Maitland NSW 2320
 PO Box 344 Hunter Regional Mail Centre NSW 2310
 T: 02 4931 6549
 M: 0407 921 462
 F: 02 4931 6793

From: Colin Phillips [mailto:Colin.Phillips@planning.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 24 July 2006 2:13 PM
To: Christie Jackson; MOLONEY Julie; armidale@environment.nsw.gov.au;
 Robert.OHern@environment.nsw.gov.au; stephen.odonoghue@environment.nsw.gov.au;
 michaelssilver@infogunnedah.nsw.gov.au; greg.sciffer@rta.nsw.gov.au; land_use_northern@rta.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Belmont Coal Project - Wean Road, about 25 km north of Gunnedah.

Dear All,

The Department of planning has received a Part 3A Project Application under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) from Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd for the Belmont Coal Project.

The Department intends to issue Director-General's Requirements (DGRs) for the project based on the input you have previously provided to the Department under Part 4 of the EP&A Act.

I would appreciate your response by email to speed up this process. If there are new matters that should be considered then I am keen to include them in the DGRs. However, I consider this to be unlikely as this will be the third time DGRs would have been issued for the project.

To recap:

1. The Planning Focus Meeting was held in Gunnedah on 8 August 2002.
2. DGRs were issued on 26 August 2004.
3. Whitehaven consulted with Department about re-issuing DGRs in 2004.
4. The Department sent out letters to agencies on 15 July 2005 asking if there were any changes to previous input on the project. (all agencies replied, with RTA being only agency updated their input).
5. Whitehaven have not altered their proposal from the information supplied in 2004. The only development is that the Company has purchased several properties on, or near, the proposed mine site.
6. The Department proposes to re-issue the DGRs, in accordance with Part 3A of the EP&A Act, using the

information previously supplied so that an Environmental Assessment Report (rather than an EIS) can be prepared by Whitehaven.

If there are matters you wish to clarify or discuss, please contact me.

Many thanks Colin.

Colin Phillips
Environmental Planning Officer
Mining and Extractive Industries
02 9228 6483
colin.phillips@dipnr.nsw.gov.au

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you :

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential/privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Department.

You should scan any attached files for viruses.
