



Wollongong Coal

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11 November 2015

Ms Luxmy Wigneswaran
Market Announcements Office
Australian Securities Exchange
Level 4, 20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ASX Code: **WLC**

Dear Ms Wignewaran,

Please find attached a copy of media release in relation to a new report that backs integrated risk assessment findings: mining proposal poses no threat to Sydney's drinking water.

Thank you

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Company Secretary
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MEDIA RELEASE

New report backs integrated risk assessment findings: mining proposal poses no threat to Sydney's drinking water

11 November 2015

Wollongong Coal has welcomed confirmation from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) the company has satisfied residual matters raised by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) in its review of its proposed Underground Extension Project (UEP) at Russell Vale Colliery.

An Addendum Report released today by the Department recommends the Project's approval subject to strict conditions and confirms Wollongong Coal's plans reflect best practice to ensure the protection of the local environment.

The report states the UEP, 'would result in an unequivocal socio-economic benefit to the region and the State,' and the recommended conditions of approval, 'reflect current best practice for the regulation of underground mining projects in NSW, and would therefore protect the local environment and the amenity of the local community'.

Wollongong Coal Operations Manager Rhys Brett said the DPE report validated the findings of the integrated risk assessment (IRA) report on the UEP, undertaken by leading experts in the fields of groundwater, surface water, mine subsidence, rock mechanics and biodiversity.

"The UEP has been subject to an unprecedented level of scrutiny and this latest report yet again confirms the Project poses no threat to Sydney's drinking water or water supply," Mr Brett said.

"DPE's Addendum Report adds further weight to the significant body of scientific evidence that puts to rest residual concerns about potential impacts on Sydney's drinking water, the Cataract Reservoir and upland swamps.

"The DPE has also recommended the Independent Risk Assessment Panel (IRAP) remain in place to provide additional oversight and expert advice on impacts in addition to strict operating conditions.

"The relevant experts agree the Project's potential impacts on groundwater and surrounding areas are minimal and within regulatory guidelines," Mr Brett said.

Mr Brett said approval of the Project would allow Wollongong Coal to recommence extraction of high-quality coking coal for global steel markets.

"We will continue to work closely with the NSW Government to ensure the Project satisfies all requirements necessary to help secure a long-term future for mining in the Illawarra," he said.

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