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Gloucester Coal Extension Approved

Gloucester Coal has been granted environmental and planning approvals for the Duralie Extension Project. The Duralie Extension Project will allow Gloucester Coal to continue mining operations and is a step towards increasing its Gloucester Basin product coal output up to 3.5Mtpa by 2014, including up to 2.0Mtpa of coking coal.

The Chief Executive Officer of Gloucester Coal, Barry Tudor said, "The granting of the approvals for the Duralie Extension Project allows the company to continue the open pit operations at the existing Duralie Coal Mine through a northerly extension of the current workings and by developing the new Clareval Pit which is adjacent. This is in line with our previously outlined Gloucester Basin strategy.

Approval of the Duralie Extension Project secures the future of the mine and provides long term job security for local employment and contractors. It also enables us to continue our contribution to the regional economy and local community", Mr Tudor said.

The Duralie Extension Project approvals include a Project Approval from the NSW Department of Planning and an EPBC Act Approval from the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The approvals enable a Mining Lease to be issued in January 2011.

The approvals follow a thorough three year process which included baseline environmental studies, public consultation and exhibition, and a detailed regulatory approval process with state and Commonwealth departments. Gloucester Coal's strong record of environmental management will continue through the ongoing implementation of established mine management practices into the new mining areas.

In addition, two consents have been received in relation to the Stratford operations. The first allows for additional resource utilisation through a cut back into the high wall at the Bowens Road North Pit and the second allows for the increase of production and the extension of the rail loop at the Stratford site, with additional coal raiing. These approvals allow for continued coal operations and employment at the Stratford Coal Mine.

For Further Information

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