



Wollongong Coal

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Please find attached a copy of press release regarding Wollongong Coal's Underground Expansion Project – Review by NSW Planning Assessment Commission.

Thank you

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PRESS RELEASE

Wollongong Coal's Underground Expansion Project – Review by NSW Planning Assessment Commission

Russell Vale Colliery

February 3, 2015

Wollongong Coal today welcomed the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) to Wollongong to conduct a public hearing to review the company's Underground Expansion Project (UEP).

The Public Hearing follows a recommendation from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to approve the Project, subject to strict conditions and operational performance measures.

Wollongong Coal Chief Operating Officer Dave Stone said the hearing was an important milestone in securing the long-term viability of Wollongong Coal's operations and also provided the community an opportunity to raise matters regarding the approval to the Commission.

"The proposal the PAC will consider has been subjected to scrutiny from a range of regulators and experts and refined based on feedback from that process. Regulators and the Department of Planning now agree key environmental features including upland swamps and the Cataract Reservoir can be protected through strict operating conditions. This is considered on the back of the recent approval for 365m of Longwall 6 that the operation has gained" Mr Stone said.

"We acknowledge concerns with regards to potential environmental impacts and in response to feedback from the community and regulators we have refined the proposal to further ensure the ongoing protection of our local environment. There has

been an extensive consultation process that assisted in guiding the proposal modifications this has been coupled with the enactment of best practice environmental monitoring and management."

"The mine is 11km from the Cataract Reservoir Dam Structure with no longwall mining permitted in its regulated buffer zone. Detailed studies demonstrate that less than one percent of the water entering the mine is potentially coming from the reservoir catchment. We can assure the community that there is a negligible effect on the quality or quantity of water entering the reservoir."

"We are confident that the PAC will recognise the merits of the Project and agree that with strict recommended operating conditions we can unlock the economic and social benefits of the project for the region, while ensuring the protection of the local environment."

"The last few years have not been without challenge for our operations but with new management and ownership in place we stand ready to secure a sustainable long-term future and our place as key member of the Illawarra region."

"Approval of the UEP project is an important first step in delivering that vision. With \$580 million of regional output this project will make an important economic contribution in our region," Mr Stone said.

For further information on the UEP Project please visit the Wollongong Coal website via www.wollongongcoal.com.au for contact information and detailed facts sheets.

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Wollongong Coal Limited (ASX Code: WLC) owns and operates Russell Vale Colliery and Wongawilli Colliery in the Southern Coalfields Region of New South Wales. The Russell Vale Colliery was established in 1887 and has provided ongoing employment and support for the local community for 127 years.

Wollongong Coal is developing to become one of the most modern and progressive coal mines in Australia. Wollongong Coal's proximity to Sydney and Port Kembla Coal Terminal make it a commercially competitive organisation. Port Kembla is located at a close proximity of about 15 KMs from both the Collieries and well connected via both rail and road.