



IMPACTS FROM INTEGRA MINE MODIFICATIONS CAN BE MANAGED: COMMISSION

Tuesday 17 April 2018

The Independent Planning Commission has approved modifications to a coal mine in the state's Hunter Valley, finding environmental impacts can be adequately managed with conditions.

HV Coking Coal Pty Ltd applied to the Department of Planning and Environment to modify its existing project approval for the Integra Underground Coal Mine near Singleton, including:

- developing up to three additional longwall panels in the Middle Liddell Seam
- increasing the lengths and widths of the currently approved LWs 15-17
- recovering an additional 9.9 tonnes of run-of-mine coal
- constructing and operating ancillary surface infrastructure, and
- constructing an additional access road off Middle Falbrook Road

The modification application was referred to the Commission after the proponent declared reportable political donations.

Two members of the Commission, Mr Paul Forward and Professor Alice Clark, were appointed to determine the matter. They studied the Department's assessment report, which raised concerns around subsidence, water resources and biodiversity impacts; and reviewed information provided by the proponent and other government agencies.

No objections to the proposal were received from Singleton Council or the local community.

After careful consideration, the Commission found the proposed modification does not change the essential nature of the approved development as the site would continue to be used for both underground and open cut mining, and that:

1. surface impact by way of mining subsidence has been appropriately modelled, confirmed by peer review... with acceptable impacts which can be adequately managed by conditions
2. ground and surface water impacts have been appropriately assessed with acceptable impacts and can be adequately managed by conditions, and
3. biodiversity impacts have been appropriately assessed with acceptable impacts which can be offset and adequately managed by conditions

The Commission has for those reasons determined to approve the modification subject to conditions.

(END OF STATEMENT)