



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
**NSW PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION**  
**The Metropolitan Coal Project at Helensburgh**

The Honourable Kristina Keneally (MP), Minister for Planning, pursuant to section 23D(1)(b)(ii) and Schedule 3 of the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and Part 16(B) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, has directed a Planning Assessment Commission to be constituted to assess the project application for the Metropolitan Coal Project located in Helensburgh.

The Commission comprises:

1. Dr Neil Shepherd, Chair
2. Mr Colin Mackie,
3. Dr John Tilleard,
4. Professor Jim Galvin,
5. Professor Jeffrey Bennett,

The terms of reference for the Commission are:

- (a) *"to carry out a review of the potential subsidence related impacts of the Metropolitan Coal Project on the drinking water catchment, and in particular the Waratah Rivulet and Woronora Reservoir, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Southern Coalfields Inquiry;*
- (b) *advise on the significance and acceptability of these potential impacts, and to recommend appropriate measures to avoid, minimise, or offset these impacts; and identify; and*
- (c) *comment on any other significant issues raised in submissions regarding the Metropolitan Coal Project or during the public hearings".*

The Minister has also directed that public hearings be held into the project. The hearings will commence at **9:30am on Wednesday, 11 March 2009** and continue if required at **Wollongong City Council Chambers, 41 Burelli Street, Wollongong**. The hearings will be open to the public.

All previous submissions made to the Department of Planning have been forwarded to the Commission for its consideration. If you made a submission to the Department of Planning and wish to speak at the hearing, please call Ms Carmel O'Connor, the Commission Coordinator on 93832102 or email [carmel.o'connor@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:carmel.o'connor@planning.nsw.gov.au) on or before **Friday 27 February 2009** to arrange a suitable time for your presentation.

Those who did not make a submission to the Department of Planning and wish to make a submission to the Commission should send their submission in writing to Carmel O'Connor, Coordinator of the NSW Planning Assessment Commission. GPO Box 3415 Sydney NSW 2001, or via email to: [carmel.o'connor@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:carmel.o'connor@planning.nsw.gov.au) on or before **Friday 27 February 2009**. These submissions should include phone contact details and indicate if you wish to speak at the hearing.

The Commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Minister.

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**All submissions made to the Commission are public documents; please indicate in your submission if you do not wish for your submission to be made public.**