

News Release



Attention News Editors
For immediate release
29 August 2008

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Illawarra Coal plans for the future

Illawarra Coal has submitted a Project Description Report and Preliminary Environmental Assessment to the NSW Department of Planning for ongoing mining of the Bulli Seam west of the Illawarra Escarpment.

This is the first step in a Part 3A approval process pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act that will take up to two and half years to finalise and will regulate the Company's mining operations in the area for some 30 years.

The final application to the NSW Department of Planning, will include a complete Environmental Assessment, and incorporate a comprehensive review of the economic benefits, and impacts on natural and man-made surface features.

Illawarra Coal's General Manager Sustainable Development and External Affairs, John Brannon said the application will include proposed future maximum footprints of Appin and West Cliff mine operations.

"This application represents a clear commitment to the local and regional economies, providing ongoing employment of up to 2000 people and ensuring coal supply to the local steelmaking industry," he said.

"Illawarra Coal is committed to environmentally sustainable mining in order to provide ongoing economic benefits to the region and state, and the Part 3A application will reflect this in its consideration of the future impacts of our operations on natural and man-made surface features including; railways, roads, flora, fauna, cultural heritage, rivers and streams."

Mr Brannon said the economic contribution of Illawarra Coal currently accounted for about 4.4 per cent of the Gross Regional Product in the Illawarra/Wollondilly regions.

"That represents, including flow-on effects, about 5900 jobs, \$520 million in Gross Regional Product and \$278 million in household income," he said.

"For every one person employed by Illawarra Coal, there are almost another five jobs created. This is the highest employment flow-on effect for the region – even greater than the metals industry, retail, construction and education."

Following feedback from the Department of Planning on the Preliminary Assessment, work will begin on developing the application; a process that will include extensive consultation with all stakeholders.

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