

# TARRAWONGA COAL MINE Community Newsletter

Issue 2, July 2011



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## From the Project Manager

This is the second community newsletter produced by Tarrawonga Coal in relation to its 'Life of Mine' Project (the Project). Our first newsletter in April 2011 introduced the Project and outlined the lodgement of an application and preliminary assessment to the NSW government.

This edition of the newsletter provides an update on the progress of the specialist environmental studies being undertaken for the Project and describes the key refinements we have made to the Project description since the first newsletter. These changes have been made as a result of our feasibility studies, our recent Heads of Agreement with Boggabri Coal Pty Ltd, community feedback and consultation with NSW

government departments.

These changes reduce the Project's environmental footprint and reflect our commitment to open consultation and consideration of community concerns.

Contact details are included on the following page and we welcome any requests for further information or any questions you may have in relation to the existing Tarrawonga Coal Mine or the proposed Project.

Regards  
**Jason Conomos**  
Project Manager

## Update on the Proposed Project

The 'Life of Mine' Project is a proposed extension to the existing Tarrawonga Coal Mine. It would involve mining to the east and north of the existing Mining Lease (ML 1579).

Since the last newsletter in April 2011, a number of refinements have been made to the Project design and layout. These include:

- Relocation of the proposed new mine facilities area away from the flat agricultural land south of Goonbri Creek, to the area immediately adjacent to the existing mine and north of Goonbri Creek. This new area is located closer to the existing facilities and minimises potential impacts on the plains located to the south and east of the Project.
- Adjustment of the proposed Goonbri Road re-alignment so that it now more closely follows the existing road corridor. This adjustment also minimises potential impacts on the plains located to the south and east.
- Use of Boggabri Coal Pty Ltd's proposed coal processing infrastructure and new rail load-out facilities once they are constructed and commissioned. Further details of the 'Heads of Agreement' for this sharing of infrastructure between the adjoining mines can be found on the following page.
- Installation and use of an internal haul road within a new 'services corridor' between the Tarrawonga Coal Mine and the Boggabri Coal Mine.

The figure provided on the following page illustrates the indicative general arrangement of the proposed Project.

## Environmental Assessment of the Project

Tarrawonga Coal Pty Ltd will seek approval under the NSW *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act, 1979* and the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* for the Project. The flowchart below provides a summary of the process.

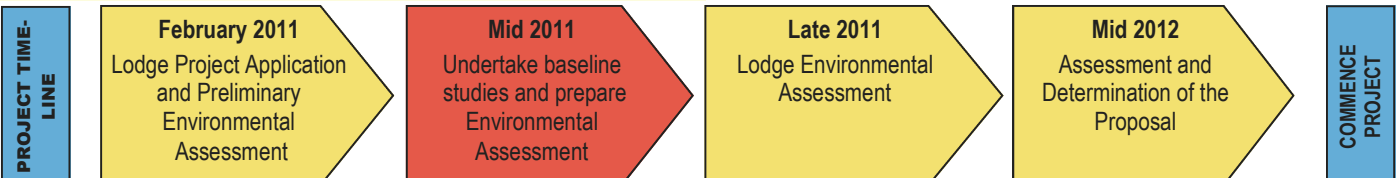
Since our last newsletter, the Project has moved into the next phase of the process and we are currently completing baseline studies and preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Project. The NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I) has also recently issued the Director General's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Project. These are available on the DP&I website (<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/>).

Studies currently being undertaken by specialist environmental consultants include:

- groundwater and surface water;
- flora and fauna;
- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage;
- noise, blasting and air quality;
- road transport;
- socio-economic;
- visual amenity, soils, and land resources.

Data collection and field surveys either have been or are in the process of being completed for the flora, fauna, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage, road transport, visual and soils and land resource assessments. Modeling of groundwater, surface water, noise and air scenarios for the Project is also well underway.

Once completed, these studies will form part of the Environmental Assessment for the Project. They will assess potential impacts of the Project on the environment and specify management measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate or offset those impacts.





## Tarrawonga and Boggabri Heads of Agreement

In May 2011, a Heads of Agreement was reached between Tarrawonga Coal Pty Ltd and Boggabri Coal Pty Ltd. This Agreement will allow the majority of coal from the Tarrawonga Mine to be processed at the Boggabri Mine's proposed upgraded Coal Handling and Preparation Plant and associated Rail Load-out Facilities.

The arrangement between the two mines would commence once construction and commissioning of the upgrades to the Boggabri Coal Mine is completed. This is expected to occur early in the Project life. Up until the upgraded facilities are commissioned, coal from the Tarrawonga Coal Mine would continue to be transported from the mine site via the existing coal haulage route to the Whitehaven Coal Handling and Preparation Plant at Gunnedah, which is located to the south of the mine.

During the life of the Project, domestic coal produced at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine (i.e. up to 450,000 tonnes per annum) would continue to be collected at the mine gate by customers and transported from the site on the local road network.

## Project Community Consultation

Tarrawonga Coal's community consultation will continue throughout the planning phase for the Life of Mine Project and beyond. The objective of this consultation is to provide any interested parties with information about the project and to identify community issues and concerns so we can factor them into the Environmental Assessment. The following activities will be undertaken to enable comment and input, and we encourage you to participate:

- Newsletters, such as this, will be circulated to surrounding residences and relevant stakeholders to provide Project status updates, study findings, and outcomes.
- The Tarrawonga Community Consultative Committee (CCC) will be kept informed with regard to status of the Project so information can be referred back to the community. The next CCC meeting is scheduled for 27 July 2011.
- Meetings with groups and/or individual stakeholders will be held to discuss issues and provide updates on the specialist environmental studies. This will include a community consultation day prior to lodgement of the Environmental Assessment.
- Copies of the EA will be made available for public review and comment.

We welcome your input into the development of this Project and encourage you to either contact us with any questions or concerns, or to provide your views through the process outlined above.

## Tarrawonga Environmental and Community Enquiries

### Environmental Enquiries:

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### Complaints Hotline:

**0429 497 730**

For more information on Whitehaven Coal, please visit:

**[www.whitehavencoal.com.au](http://www.whitehavencoal.com.au)**