



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – EXHIBITION OF STAGE ONE REFORMS UNDER THE INTEGRATED MINING POLICY**

### **What is the Government doing to balance mining with community impacts?**

- The Government has already announced increased penalties to ensure compliance with approval conditions on noise, dust, traffic, waste management, and other impacts from mining activity.
- The Integrated Mining Policy is intended to clarify and improve existing government processes and policy around the assessment, determination and regulation of State significant mining developments.
- Stage 1 of the Integrated Mining Policy is now on exhibition until 9 July 2015 for industry and community comment.

### **What is the Integrated Mining Policy?**

- The NSW Government intends to strike a balance between the significant benefits major projects can bring to the economy and the potential impacts on communities and the environment.
- The Integrated Mining Policy is a whole-of-government project which aims to reduce duplication and improve the efficiency of assessment and regulation of State significant mining.
- The policies and guidelines developed as part of the Policy on mining improve transparency, consistency and accountability for assessment decisions.
- The Policy will give the consent authority for a State significant mining project a more comprehensive picture of identified environmental impacts and proposed mitigation controls to help inform their decision-making.
- Importantly, the IMP does not change environmental standards or community consultation requirements.

### **What is the scope of the Integrated Mining Policy?**

- The Integrated Mining Policy will apply to all State significant mining developments, including coal and mineral mines.
- It does not include petroleum operations or coal seam gas proposals, or any exploration activities, and it does not change existing legislation (further coal seam gas reforms are being developed as part of the Government's Gas Plan).



- Importantly, the high standards already in place to manage environmental and community impacts will not change.

### **How will it make mining regulation in NSW easier to understand?**

- The Integrated Mining Policy will provide greater certainty around how mining proposals are assessed, including biodiversity offsets and swamp offsets, as well as economic assessment guidelines.
- New guidelines have also been prepared to advise industry about how to explain the proposed mine design and to report on compliance with approval conditions.
- Standard Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS) will ensure greater clarity around the information the Government requires to complete its assessment.

### **Why is the Government making these changes?**

- Mining is an important industry in NSW. It provides jobs in regional areas and significantly contributes to the local and state economies.
- Mining operations, however, can also have a significant impact on local communities, the land and the environment.
- The Government intends to strike a balance between the significant economic benefits of major mining projects and minimising potential impacts on communities and the environment.
- The Integrated Mining Policy improves the assessment and determination process for mining developments so that it works better for industry, regulators and the community.
- It will ensure that stakeholders have access to relevant information at each point in the decision-making process.

### **How is the Government consulting with stakeholders?**

- The Government is undertaking public consultation on the Integrated Mining Policy in two stages to give the community sufficient time to consider the proposals.
- In the first stage the following items are on exhibition:
  - Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)
  - Mine Application Guideline
  - Swamp Offset Policy



- Further information on these items can be found in the FAQ – Integrated Mining Policy Overview.
- These items are being exhibited for community consultation for six weeks from 28 May 2015 to 9 July 2015.
- The Government will consult on Stage 2 of the Integrated Mining Policy at a later date.

### **How will existing mining operations be affected?**

- Once the Policy has been finalised, the Department of Planning and Environment will consult with affected parties on a transition process.

### **How can I find out more information?**

- The proposed planning changes can be viewed:
  - online at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
  - at the Department's Information Centre at 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney

### **How can I have a say about what is being proposed?**

- Submissions can be made up to: 9 July 2015
  - online at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
  - by mail to: Director of Assessment Policy Systems & Stakeholder Engagement, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39 Sydney NSW 2001.
- Submissions will be made public in line with the Department of Planning & Environment's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission.
- Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)
- Inquiries: 1300 305 695