

# Exhibition of stage two reforms under the integrated mining policy



## Frequently Asked Questions

July 2015

### What is the Integrated Mining Policy and what does it do?

- The NSW Government is improving mining regulation as part of a wider plan to improve outcomes and strengthen information available for communities affected by mining.
- The Integrated Mining Policy is a whole-of-government project that aims to improve the regulation of major mining projects.
- The Integrated Mining Policy intends to strike a balance between the significant benefits mining can bring to the economy and the potential impacts on communities and the environment.
- The policies and guidelines developed as part of the Integrated Mining Policy are intended to help improve assessment decisions and help to manage the environmental and social impacts of mining.
- Importantly, the Integrated Mining Policy does not reduce environmental standards or community consultation requirements.

### 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 Integrated Mining Policy improves the assessment and regulation of mining developments so that it works better for industry, regulators and community.
- It will ensure that stakeholders have access to relevant and timely information about mining projects.

### How is the Government consulting with stakeholders?

- The Government is undertaking public consultation on the Integrated Mining Policy in several stages to give the community sufficient time to consider the proposals.
- Stage one included the following items and was on exhibition from 25 May to 9 July:
  - Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)
  - Mine Application Guideline
  - Swamp Offset Policy
- In stage two, the following items are on exhibition from 28 July to 7 September:
  - Planning Agreement Guideline
  - Post Approval Guideline – Annual Review
  - Post Approval Guideline – Web-based Reporting
  - Post Approval Guideline – Independent Audits
  - Water Policy and Regulation (summary document)
- The Government will consider all submissions received.

# Exhibition of stage two reforms under the integrated mining policy



## Frequently Asked Questions

July 2015

- Further information on each of the items in stage one and stage two can be found in the Integrated Mining Policy Overview.

### How will existing mining operations be affected?

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

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

Local government, industry and the community are invited to review and comment on the proposal.

- Submissions on stage one closed on 9 July 2015
- Submissions on stage two can be made up to 7 September 2015
- Submissions can be made:
  - online at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
  - by mail to: Executive Director, Resources & Industry Policy, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.
- Submissions will be made public in line with the Department of Planning and 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)

### What happens next?

- At the end of the exhibition period we will review all submissions and then prepare a report for the Minister for Planning.
- Once the Minister makes a decision about the proposed changes, we'll publish an update on our website at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals). We will also update our stakeholders and anyone who made a submission.

### Where can I get more information?

- Visit our website at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)
- Call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email us at: [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)