

Coal & Allied community newsletter Singleton edition

Issue 3 - March 2010



Mine pals up with seniors in Singleton

The Mount Thorley Warkworth mine has provided another \$5000 towards the Computer Pals for Seniors programme, following a \$1000 donation made last year.

President of the programme, Richard Caelli, said the money has helped purchase equipment including new monitors and memory upgrades plus air-conditioning, office chairs and stationery.

"About 85 Singleton seniors have been involved in the programme since it started last year, which teaches basic computer skills to help with day to day life," Richard said.

"The money from Mount Thorley

Warkworth will go a long way and will allow us to continue to run classes for locals, which are proving to be popular.

"We also now have a permanent room, provided by the Sisters of Mercy, from which we conduct around five classes a week."

Mount Thorley Warkworth General Manager Operations Cam Halfpenny said the mine was proud to continue its support of the programme, which works to help improve the quality of life of Singleton's seniors.

"Being able to use the computer and access the internet has become a life skill that brings so many advantages," Cam said.

"By becoming computer literate, seniors will be able to manage their banking and financial information online, access information in an instant and keep in touch with friends and family, all of which can make life that little bit easier and more fulfilling.

"I'm pleased to hear the programme is doing so well and applaud the seniors who are taking on the challenge."

If you are interested in enrolling in the Computer Pals for Seniors programme or to find out more, please contact Pauline McLoughlin on 02 6572 1933.

From the General Managers



Cam Halfpenny Mount Thorley Warkworth

Welcome to our first Coal & Allied Singleton community newsletter for 2010. We are already well into the year, which is set to be a busy one at Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW).

I was pleased that our teams had the chance to receive community feedback in our December information sessions about the work which we have been doing at Coal & Allied. Key to all of our current and proposed work has been our ongoing process to engage with and seek feedback from both our local communities and government. This helps us to understand any potential impacts from these proposals so consideration can be given to avoid or mitigate impacts in the early planning stages.

At MTW, work is continuing on our Warkworth Extension project, and Coal & Allied is planning to lodge an Environmental Assessment

to the NSW Department of Planning for adequacy review in the coming weeks. This will be followed by a public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment held by the Department. Information about when the public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment is available for comment will be advertised in local papers and on the Department's website.

Not only have we been busy on site, but we have also been busy in the community. It is great to see the Computer Pals for Seniors programme back on line again this year, after a very successful inaugural year last year. I also encourage people to take advantage of the upcoming e-waste collection in Singleton to drop off any unwanted electronic goods you may have around your homes. You will find more information about both of these initiatives on page 1 and 4 respectively.



Graham Gageler Hunter Valley Operations

At Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) our focus this year will be on ensuring the safe progression of our HVO South project, continuing the development of our other pits as well as continuing our considerations of the Carrington West proposal.

Coal & Allied is committed to being an active and accessible member of the community, and as such we would like to ensure that you know how to contact Coal & Allied if you would like to learn more about our existing operations, future proposals and community activities. We have provided a project update in this edition to keep you informed of Coal & Allied's current and future projects in the Hunter Valley, with our focus remaining on maximising the value of our existing mining leases. Please refer to page 3 for more information.

We are continuing to investigate options for our Carrington West proposal, which could achieve up to five years of additional mining at the Carrington Pit and would require a modification of the existing development consent. Coal & Allied is planning to lodge an Environmental Assessment to the Department of Planning for Carrington West later in 2010.

I am also looking forward to the launch of one of our Community Development Fund projects in March, the Healthy Dads, Healthy Kids programme – which is being launched in Singleton. Details about this exciting three year programme can be found on page 4 of this newsletter. Over the coming weeks our Annual Environmental Management Reports for 2009 will become available, and I encourage you to visit our shopfronts or our website if you are interested in viewing these reports.

Want
to
know
more?

For more information about Coal & Allied's operations or activities in your local community:

Visit: Shopfronts in Singleton (127 John St) and Muswellbrook (19 Bridge St)

Phone: 1800 727 745 - our freecall Community Information Line, or our freecall Environmental Hotline on 1800 656 892

Read: Singleton and Muswellbrook Community Newsletters, distributed quarterly via letterbox delivery

Email: cnacommunityrelations@riotinto.com

Web: www.coalandallied.com.au - includes materials from community information sessions.

Coal & Allied projects approval update

In 2010 Coal & Allied is continuing to investigate opportunities to extend the lives of its operations in the Hunter Valley.

Our Mount Thorley Warkworth (MTW) and Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) mines offer excellent opportunities to

increase production within their existing mining tenements or lands.

Our aim is to maximise the value of our existing operations, and by extending their operational lives we can continue our contribution to the region into the future.

Coal & Allied has and will continue to provide information to the community on these brownfield opportunities, which are currently in various stages of the assessment process under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) - shown below.




**Warkworth Extension
Warkworth mine**

Approvals process - Part 3A

- Extension of existing pits to the west
- Uncover economic resources to south and west
- Extend open cut mine life by 10 years
- Provide an additional 148 jobs per year on average until 2021, then retain 951 jobs per year on average until 2031.

Current stage




Carrington West - HVO

Approval process - Section 75W modification

- Extension of Carrington Pit to the west
- Access to 17 million tonnes of coal over approximately five years
- Covers an area of approximately 142 hectares of predominantly cleared land which Coal & Allied owns.

Current stage

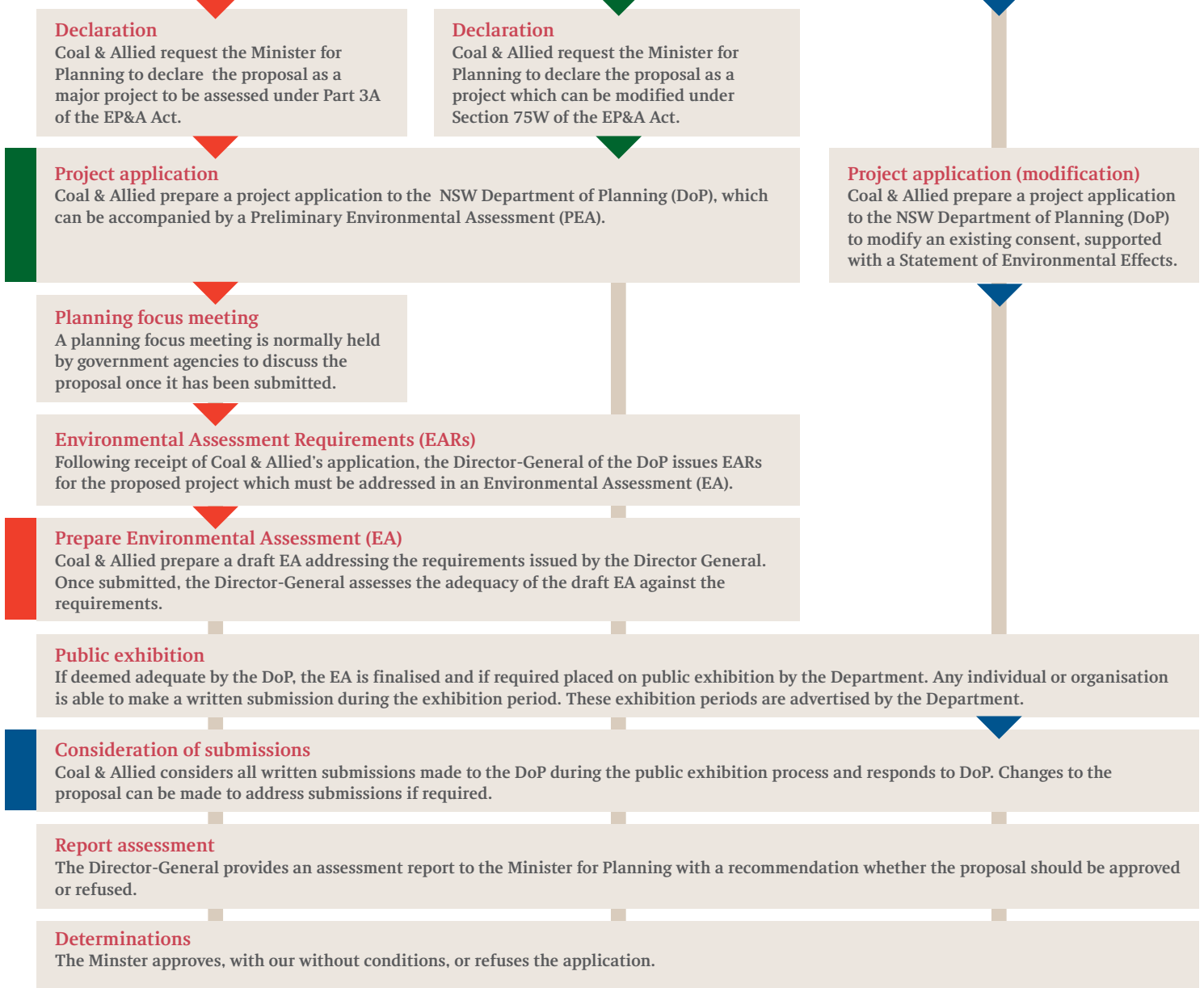


**Abbey Green North
Mt Thorley mine**

Approvals process - Section 96 (2) modification

- Extension of approved pit by 75 hectares
- Access to an additional five million tonnes of run of mine coal
- Realignment of haul road and minor mine infrastructure
- Temporary storage of mine water in pit void.

Current stage





Pictured: Thiess Services and Mount Thorley Warkworth employees assisted during last year's e-waste collection day.

E-waste collection day this Saturday

Coal & Allied is again sponsoring an electronic waste collection day in Singleton, as part of its commitment to responsibly managing and disposing of waste on its mines, as well as encouraging responsible waste disposal within the wider community.

This year's e-waste collection day will coincide with Clean Up Australia Day, and Singleton residents are encouraged to bring their e-waste to the Singleton Council car park, Civic Avenue, between 9:00am and 1:00pm on Saturday 6 March.

E-waste includes video or digital

cameras, video or DVD players, laptop and desktop computers and monitors, vacuum cleaners, scanners, mobile phones, photocopiers, smoke detectors, alarm clocks, televisions, cordless tools, telephones and other small electrical items. Whitegoods such as fridges, freezers, air-conditioning units, washing machines and clothes dryers will not be accepted.

Disposing of e-waste appropriately can prevent poisonous substances from entering into the environment, while other components, such as plastics, glass, metals and wiring, can be recycled to make new products.

In 2009, more than 25 tonnes of e-waste was collected in Singleton, 97 per cent of which was recycled.



Pictured: Hunter region fathers will have the opportunity to be healthy role models for their children.

Healthy dads, healthy kids in Singleton

Did you know 70 per cent of men and 30 per cent of children living in the Singleton, Maitland, Cessnock, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter region are classified as obese?

To help tackle the region's obesity rates, the Coal & Allied Community Development Fund has joined forces with the Hunter Medical Research Institute to deliver the Healthy Dads Healthy Kids programme.

This grass roots, community owned solution designed and successfully trialled in Newcastle, aims to teach fathers the skills to effectively manage their weight, and importantly, be healthy role models for their children.

The programme is being launched in Singleton on 5 March, and funding from the Coal & Allied Community Development Fund of more than \$500,000 over the next three years will expand the programme to include the Upper Hunter, Maitland, Muswellbrook and Cessnock regions.

Mount Thorley Warkworth Community Consultive Committee

Cr Alison Howlett	0423 248 586
Bruce Russell	6574 6501
Stewart Mitchell	6574 5152
Susan Timbury	6571 2353
Peter Cooke	6775 9155
Adrian Gallagher	6574 5100
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Robert Carter	6570 1534
Lynne Bailey	6570 3607

Hunter Valley Operations Community Consultive Committee

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