

**INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT  
EPBC REF: 2011/5866**

**MT ARTHUR COAL MINE EXTENSION PROJECT**

Hunter Valley Energy Coal (HVEC) operates the Mt Arthur Coal complex located approximately 5 kms south west of Muswellbrook in the NSW Hunter Valley. Mining has been undertaken at the complex since the 1960s.

HVEC is proposing to undertake the Mt Arthur Coal Mine Extension Project (also known as the Consolidation Project) which includes:

- the development of five new open cut extension areas to uncover additional coal reserves, approved under the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) in 2010;
- an area of the Mt Arthur North mine to be mined after the end of 2012, approved under the EP&A Act in 2002;
- an area of the South Pit Extension to be mined after the end of 2012, approved under the EP&A Act in 2008;
- the relocation of a section of Edderton Road, approved under the EP&A Act in 2010; and
- proposed associated infrastructure to support active operational areas (other than linear infrastructure which is needed to be constructed or used in the period to the end of 2012), approved under the EP&A Act in 2010.

The proposed action is a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* and will be assessed through Preliminary Documentation. The controlling provisions under Part 3 of the Act are Listed Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (s18 and s18A) and Listed Migratory Species (s20 and s20A). The proposed action is to be undertaken by Ms Sarah Withell on behalf of HVEC.

In accordance with Section 95A(3) of the EPBC Act, the documents related to the proposal will be on display at the following locations from 9 January to 6 February 2012:

- Mt Arthur Coal, Thomas Mitchell Drive, Muswellbrook, NSW;
- Muswellbrook Library, 126 Bridge Street, Muswellbrook, NSW;
- Department of Planning, 23-33 Bridge Street, Sydney, NSW;
- Department Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, John Gorton Building, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT.

The documents can also be viewed without charge at [www.bhpbilliton.com](http://www.bhpbilliton.com), by selecting 'About us', 'Regulatory Information' and 'Mt Arthur Coal'. If you have special needs and require assistance in accessing the material, please call (02) 6542 4800.

Interested persons and organisations are invited to comment on the published material by 6 February 2012. Submissions can be sent to EPBC Submissions, Mt Arthur Coal, PMB Muswellbrook, NSW 2333, or [mtarthurcoalfeedback@bhpbilliton.com](mailto:mtarthurcoalfeedback@bhpbilliton.com).