

Taroborah Coal Project Media Release – 12/05/14

Taroborah EIS brings project closer

The Taroborah project has moved a step closer with the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project.

Project Manager, David Thomas, said the EIS was the summary of several years of work on the project, aimed at minimising the environmental impact of the project, while maximising the benefit to the local community.

“We’ve done a lot of work on this to get the best possible outcome for the local community, and we are very happy with the results,” he said.

“There will be some impacts on the local community, but we believe we can keep them to a minimum. Certainly there will be very little impact on most people, unless they are right on top of the mine, or very close to it.”

The draft EIS is now with the Queensland Coordinator-General and will be open for public comment until the 22nd June. This is to enable the community to have their say on anything that might be of concern to them, and to help the company refine the plan for the project.

Mr Thomas said the public consultation period was important for the company as well as the community.

“We really want to do this as well as we possibly can. Obviously that will involve a few trade-offs, and the project has to be economically viable, but we believe we good outcomes for the community can fit in with a viable mine,” he said.

A key factor has been the decision to have a locally based workforce. This is in contrast to other projects in the Central Highlands, where the companies have chosen to recruit solely from the South-East corner, and fly-in the workforce. Mr Thomas said this was not the best way to deliver benefits to the community.

“We don’t think there is any reason to have a fly-in, fly-out workforce when there are people ready and willing to work right here in the Central Highlands,” Mr Thomas said

“Making sure there are jobs for the local community is very important. It is about maximising the benefits that flow from the project.”

The draft EIS reveals that the project has a construction life of 18 months and an expected operating life of 20 years.

Coal production will peak at 5.73 MT per annum of product coal, and will be transported by Minerva sized trains to Gladstone. Mr Thomas said this would have some impact on Emerald, but it would be minor.

“We expect a maximum of three trains each way through the town a day. This should have minimal impact on traffic, and we are committed to working with the government and the council to ensuring the best possible outcomes,” he said.