

# West Muswellbrook Project

## Introduction

Muswellbrook Coal Company (MCC) has a long history in the Muswellbrook community, dating back to the establishment of the original Muswellbrook Coal Mine in 1907. Since 1989 MCC has been wholly owned and operated by Idemitsu Australia Resources.

MCC has held an assessment lease (AL 19) for a potential new mine at West Muswellbrook since 2009. In December 2014, MCC lodged a Gateway Application to the Mining and Petroleum Gateway Panel. The Panel has now completed its assessment and issued a Conditional Gateway Certificate. The Conditional Gateway Certificate is valid for five years.

MCC will consider and respond to the Panel's recommendations during the development approval and environmental assessment stages of the project, due to commence later this year.

## Next steps

The NSW Government is proposing a new Integrated Mining Policy that would apply to State significant mining development such as the West Muswellbrook Project. The new policy does not change environmental standards and would make information more accessible to the public as mining projects are planned and assessed. More information on the new policy can be found at:

<http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/consultations/improving-mining-regulation-in-nsw/>

According to the new policy, the next stage for the West Muswellbrook Project is to prepare a Preliminary Environmental Assessment. A significant change in the process as a result of the new policy is the public display of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment prior to the issuing of Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements. This additional public exhibition stage increases the level of stakeholder engagement earlier in the planning and assessment process. Stakeholders and the wider community will also have the opportunity to provide input during the Environmental Impact Statement process and during public exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement.

## New project website

[idemitsu.com.au/projects/west-muswellbrook-project/](http://idemitsu.com.au/projects/west-muswellbrook-project/)

The Conditional Gateway Certificate and report can be downloaded from the West Muswellbrook Project page on the new Idemitsu website.

The website is your best resource for the most accurate and up-to-date information about the project.



## Ongoing works

A small program of additional drilling is about to start within the assessment lease area to establish additional groundwater monitoring locations. The drill locations are concentrated in the northern and central sections of the area.

This program will include drilling up to 10 holes and installing PVC pipe and monitoring apparatus in the boreholes to allow regular measurements to be made. Vibrating wireline piezometers will be installed in four of the boreholes for additional groundwater data collection.

Data from the new monitoring locations will be combined with the current groundwater monitoring data to enhance the groundwater model prepared for the recent Gateway Certificate application. The drilling program serves as a preliminary step that will inform the future environmental assessments and subsequent Development Application.

MCC thanks all impacted landowners for their cooperation and assistance both in preparing for and during the drilling program.

## Ongoing consultation

In the last six months, MCC has continued to engage with landowners and have given briefings to state and federal representatives. We have also discussed the project with Muswellbrook Shire Council and Upper Hunter Shire Council. We intend to maintain dialogue with the public and its elected representatives as the project proceeds.

Please feel free to get in touch with us at any time by contacting:

### Paul Martinkus

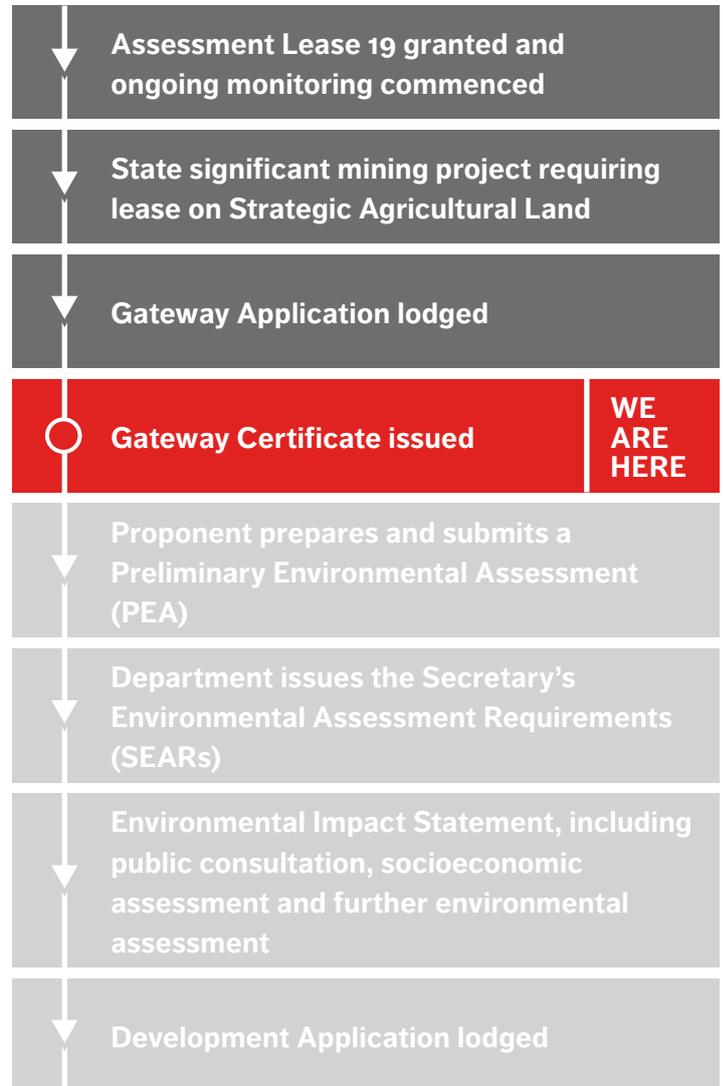
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Drill to be used for groundwater monitoring on site