

ASX RELEASE

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WHITEHAVEN RECEIVES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING APPROVAL FOR TARRAWONGA MINE EXPANSION

Whitehaven Coal Limited (ASX:WHC) today announced that the Federal Government has granted approval for the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Expansion Project in north west NSW, subject to a series of conditions.

The approval process for the project has included extensive community and stakeholder consultation and specialist expert assessments of environmental impacts. The New South Wales Government approved the expansion project in January.

“We welcome the Federal Government’s approval under the EPBC Act and are committed to working within the stringent conditions that have been placed on the Project,” Whitehaven Coal Managing Director Mr Tony Haggarty said.

“We also welcome the approach both the State and Federal governments have taken to the management of cumulative impacts with the nearby Boggabri and Maules Creek mines.”

Under the expansion project Whitehaven is seeking to expand the mine to the east and north of the existing mining area, increase the production rate from 2 million tonnes of coal per year to 3 million tonnes of coal a year and extend the project life from 2017 to 2030.

The Socio-Economic Assessment of the expansion indicates that the operation of the Project is expected to have the following positive impacts on the regional economy (the statistical local areas of Narrabri and Gunnedah):

- \$490 million in annual direct and indirect regional output or business turnover;
- \$27 million in annual household income; and
- 300 direct and indirect jobs.

The mine currently employs more than 150 staff and contractors – most of whom live in the local community.

Full conditions are available on the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Population and Communities website: www.environment.gov.au

The Tarrawonga mine is a joint venture between Whitehaven (70%) and Idemitsu (30%).



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