

# BYLONG COAL PROJECT – PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION REVIEW

The Minister for Planning has requested that the New South Wales (NSW) Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) review and hold a public hearing into the Bylong Coal Project (the Project) proposed by KEPCO Bylong Australia (KEPCO).

## PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

The PAC is an independent panel made up of experts in planning, architecture, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism, heritage or government and public administration, constituted under section 23B of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

## THE APPROVALS PROCESS TO DATE

In July 2015 KEPCO lodged a Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the NSW Government. The EIS provides a detailed description of the Project and identifies potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed development, along with ways to manage these potential impacts through avoidance, mitigation and offsetting. The EIS also identifies actions to enhance project benefits and social opportunities for the local region.

The NSW Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) placed the EIS and DA on public exhibition from Wednesday 23 September to Friday 6 November 2015 inviting interested persons to make a submission about these documents. A total of 383 submissions were received.

In response to these submissions, KEPCO prepared a detailed Response to Submissions report, which was submitted to DP&E in March 2016. Additional matters raised by a small number of stakeholders were addressed in a Supplementary Response to Submissions report submitted in August 2016. Following the DP&E's consideration of these reports, and preparation of its Preliminary Assessment Report, the Minister for Planning has requested that the PAC review and hold a public hearing into the Project.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings are provided for under section 23D (1)(b)(iii) of the EP&A Act. The purpose of the public hearing is to give interested parties an opportunity to present their views to the PAC.

The PAC held a public hearing for the Project on the 11 May 2017 in Mudgee, where submissions from residents, the local community and other stakeholders were received.

The terms of reference for the review and the public hearing are available at <http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/projects/2017/02/bylong-coal-project>.

All relevant documents relating to the Project, including public submissions received by DP&E, are also available on the website.

## RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

As public hearings are not recorded by any electronic devices, the PAC, where possible, generally requests copies of speech notes or presentations be provided to the PAC Secretariat at or following the hearing, for record purposes.

Presentations and notes provided to the PAC may be made publicly available on the PAC's website, along with any submissions received by the PAC prior to the public hearing. The PAC will generally remove any personal contact details (other than names) from documents published on its website. Submissions of a confidential nature will also be withheld from the website, where this has been requested. Copies of the submissions are available at <http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au/projects/2017/02/bylong-coal-project>.

## AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING

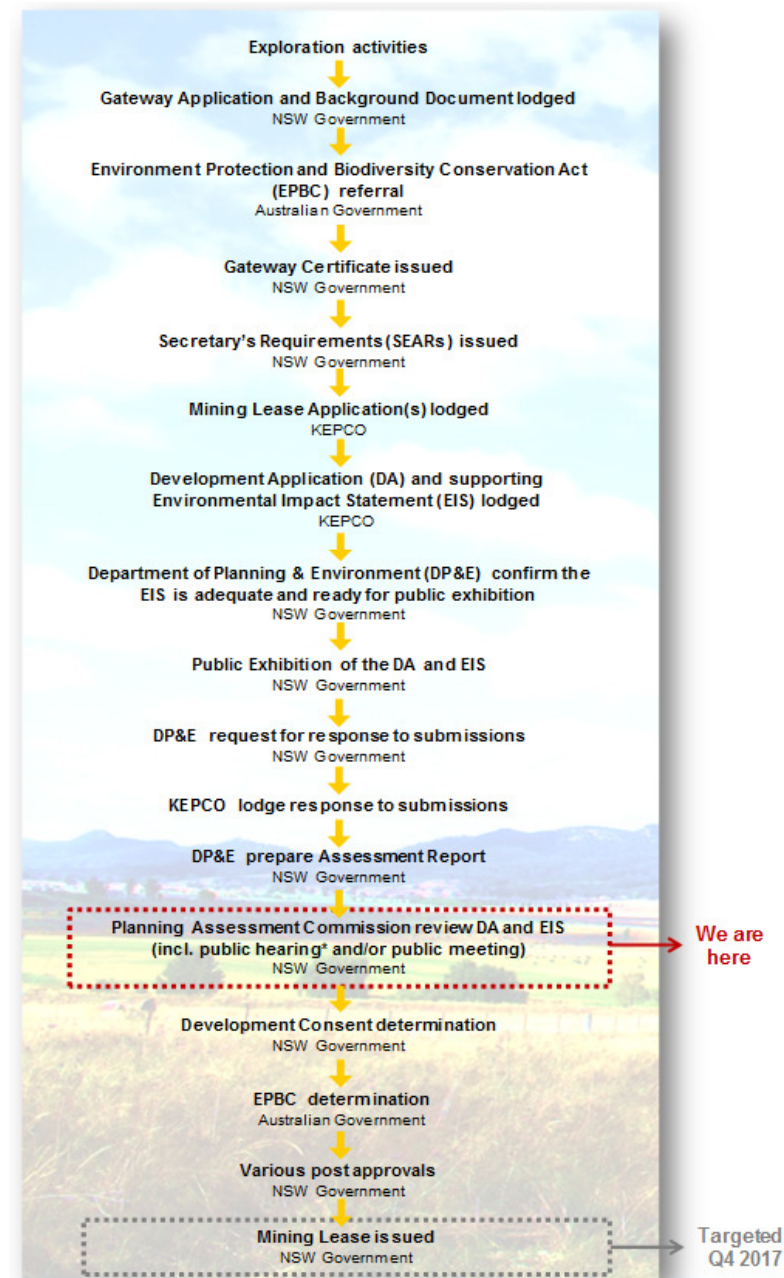
The PAC will provide a report and recommendations on its findings to the Minister for Planning, which will be considered by the DP&E.

Current practice is that DP&E then updates their assessment report and the Project is then delegated back to the PAC as the delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning for a final determination (this may or may not include a public meeting).

If the DA is approved by the NSW Government, it will also require Australian Government approval as a 'controlled action' under the *Environment Protection and Bio diversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

### NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please contact the PAC Secretariat on (02) 9383 2100 or email to [pac@pac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pac@pac.nsw.gov.au) if you have any questions about the public hearing process, or [www.pac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au)



### CONTACT US:

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