

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

MININGENUITY™

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MEDIA RELEASE**

MINING INDUSTRY WELCOMES INDEPENDENT PANEL

The NSW Minerals Council has welcomed today's announcement by the NSW Government that an Independent Expert Panel will conduct an inquiry into the impacts of longwall mining on natural environmental features.

NSWMC Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the decision was a win for all those with an interest in the issue.

"There is obviously a degree of genuine community concern about the impacts of longwall mining on natural features, particularly water in the Southern Coalfields. The industry is equally genuine in its commitment to addressing those concerns."

"This inquiry is a chance for the facts to be put on the table. It is an opportunity for the communities of the Southern Coalfields, including the mining companies, to put forward their views and have them considered by the experts as part of a science based assessment of potential impacts, risk management, monitoring and the quality of remediation strategies."

"The industry recognises that mining activities can have some impacts. The Independent Panel is a positive move. We are confident that the process will facilitate an open discussion which supports an independent, science based assessment of the issue."

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