

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERALS COUNCIL LTD

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MEDIA RELEASE**

MINING INDUSTRY WELCOMES PURSUIT OF SCIENCE AND FACTS ON CENTRAL COAST

The NSW Minerals Council (NSWMC) has welcomed today's announcement by the NSW Government that an Independent Expert Panel will conduct an inquiry into coal mining in the Wyong area.

NSWMC Chief Executive, Dr Nikki Williams, said the decision to pursue an independent view based on the best available scientific advice was a step forward on the debate over mining on the Central Coast.

"Community concerns must be considered as part of the overall assessment of any mining proposal. It is equally important that these assessments also take into consideration the science and the facts, to ensure that we achieved a balanced outcome for all stakeholders."

"There is a lot of passionate debate on the issue of mining on the Central Coast. But it's a disservice to the silent majority that they are only made aware of one half of the story," said Dr Williams.

"The industry recognises that mining activities can have some impacts. The current water crisis means that concerns around potential impacts on water catchments are heightened."

"We are confident that the process will facilitate an open discussion which supports an independent, science based assessment of the issue."

Dr Williams said that the industry was genuine in its commitment to address community concerns around the impacts of mining.

"Where the potential impacts of specific mining projects are assessed as being unacceptable, proposals will be modified to minimise those impacts. The decision on whether to approve a mining proposal is ultimately one for the NSW Government."

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