

## Introducing Colin Cowan

Mr Colin Cowan was appointed independent Chairperson of the Chain Valley Coal Project Stakeholder Reference Group in October.

Colin was employed in local government for 38 years and was General Manager of Cessnock City Council for 17 years. He is an accredited mediator and holds post graduate qualifications in local government, specialising in strategic planning and project evaluation.

During his local government service he was a Director of Hunter Tourism for 10 years, Director of the Hunter Area Consultative Committee for eight years and a member of numerous other local and regional organisations.

Colin is a Vietnam Veteran having served with the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment as an infantry soldier.

Colin holds the civilian awards of Centenary Medal and Public Service Medal.

## About the Mine Subsidence Board

The Mine Subsidence Board is a service organisation operating for the community in coal mining areas of New South Wales and is responsible for administering the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1961.

The Act provides for compensation or repair services where improvements are damaged by mine subsidence resulting from the extraction of coal. The Board is also responsible for reducing the risk of mine subsidence damage to properties by assessing and controlling the types of buildings and improvements which can be erected in Mine Subsidence Districts.

The board is also responsible for the elimination of public and private danger caused by mine subsidence and the provision of a comprehensive and accessible advisory and technical service.

The Mine Subsidence Board also offers pre-mining inspections free of charge.

Additional information is available from [www.minesub.nsw.gov.au](http://www.minesub.nsw.gov.au)

For further information  
please contact the  
Chain Valley community  
information line:

**1800 687 557**

[www.chainvalleymine.com.au](http://www.chainvalleymine.com.au)

## Chain Valley Coal Project

### Community Newsletter

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LakeCoal (A wholly owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Australia) has made an application to consolidate and replace existing approvals for Peabody's Chain Valley mine, effectively securing employment for the operation's 120 employees. It will extend the life of the mine by 21 years to 2030.



**Peabody** LakeCoal

# About the Environmental Assessment Process

The Chain Valley Coal Project development application has been made under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The NSW Department of Planning major project assessment system includes:

- Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) - which defines the way a project is to be assessed
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005 - which defines what projects are subject to Part 3A.

This process is specifically designed to deal with the complexity of major projects and ensures key issues are identified early in the process by engaging with the community.

Chain Valley Coal Project's Environmental Assessment (EA) will focus on surface features including residential areas, foreshore, environmentally sensitive areas and the potential for surface features to be impacted by the mining process.

A Mine Plan will be developed to ensure the impacts of mining conform to the constraints identified in the study of the surface features.

The steps involved in the process include:

1. Major Project Declaration (completed)
2. Planning Focus Meeting (completed)
3. Director General's EA Requirements (completed)
4. Draft EA
5. Adequacy Review By Department of Planning (DoP)
6. Public Exhibition
7. Response to submissions from the public
8. DoP assessment and recommendation to Minister for Planning
9. Determination of Project

## Stakeholder Reference Group

Peabody's Chain Valley Mine is committed to ongoing consultation with the local community to keep them informed of the process as it develops. To help achieve this, a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) has been formed. The SRG is made up of representatives from local community organisations. The first meeting was held on Monday 26 October 2009.

The aim of the SRG is to provide a forum for constructive consultation regarding the key environmental and community issues for the Project and to keep the local community informed of the assessment and approval processes.

Community members of the SRG include:

**Colin Cowan** - Independent Chairperson

**Steve Jackson** - Gwandalan / Summerland Point Community Precinct Committee

**Mike Collins** - Boat Owners Association of NSW, Hunter Region

**Jo Durand** - Summerland Point Progress Association

**Kevin Spencer** - Gwandalan / Summerland Point Action Group

**Alan Henderson** - Chain Valley Bay Bush care

**Jack Cambourn** - Chain Valley Bay Progress Association

**Andrew Whitbourne** - Mannering Park Community Precinct Committee

**Neil Wynn** - Mannering Park Community Precinct Committee

**Jack Barrow** - Mannering Park Progress Association

Meetings are scheduled in November and December.

Community members who have no association with the groups represented on the Stakeholder Reference Group can access information on the project from **[www.chainvalleymine.com.au](http://www.chainvalleymine.com.au)** or call **1800 687 557**.

Traditional owners and state and local government agencies, are directly consulted through other means.

