



## **Coal Terminal seeks efficiency improvements**

The Port Kembla Coal Terminal application to the Department of Planning for the receipt of coal by public road transportation 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, was declared a major project by Planning Minister Frank Sartor yesterday.

Peter Green, Acting General Manager of Port Kembla Coal Terminal, said "we welcome Minister Sartor's announcement which will result in a Part 3A assessment under a public process with thorough environmental assessment of the proposal."

The Coal Terminal operates 24 hours per day 7 days per week for shipping and receiving trains, however, under SEPP 7 is only able to receive coal by public roads 11 hours per day 6 days per week. Mr Green said "this limitation results in the coal terminal being unable to receive coal by public roads for over 60% of our total operating time. The proposal to move to 24/7 public road received coal will enable the coal terminal to be more efficient and support increased exports".

"Restrictions do not apply to the times trucks can operate at other industry and port operators in Port Kembla, only the Coal Terminal, and this is clearly not equitable. Under the proposed change, trucks would be spread more constantly over the 24 hour period and we would see fewer trucks per hour during peak commuter periods", said Mr Green.

The Coal Terminal has received coal by public road 24/7 in the past when emergencies have been deemed to exist, the last was from December 2006 to March 2007. Mr Green said "during peak shipping periods we have demonstrated that coal is safely transported 24/7 delivering efficiency to our operations and with minimal concern raised by the community."

The current regulation, SEPP 7, was developed over 25 years ago, and Mr Green said "much has changed since then. Trucks now use different routes, roads have been significantly improved with noise attenuation and jersey barriers, and truck fleets have been made both quieter and safer. Clearly it is time for a review of this old regulation in the context of today's operating environment and we are open to that process."

Port Kembla Coal Terminal receives coal from 12 mines in the Illawarra and Lithgow regions from both road and rail transportation which is loaded onto ships, with the current volume at approximately 12 million tonnes per annum.

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