If you would like to know more about the Project, a copy of the Project Application - including the Project Description and Preliminary Assessment Report will be made publicly available on the DoP website (http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au) under “Major Project Assessments – Register of Major Projects.”

You can also contact Rod Hailstone (Environment and Community Manager) at Metropolitan Colliery for more information regarding the Project (02 4294 7222).

If you would like to know more about the Project, a copy of the Project Application - including the Project Description and Preliminary Assessment Report will be made publicly available on the DoP website (http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au) under “Major Project Assessments – Register of Major Projects.”

The underground mining operations are supported by Metropolitan Colliery’s surface facilities. The major surface facilities of Metropolitan Colliery are situated off Parkes Street in Helensburgh (see Figure 1 on back page).

Metropolitan Colliery currently produces up to approximately 1.5 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of hard coking and semi-hard coking product coal. The majority of product coal is transported by train to the Port Kembla Coal Terminal and by truck to the Corrimal and Coalcliff Coke Works. A proportion of the product coal is also transported by truck to the Glenlee Washery and on-site underground injection of coal reject material within mined out areas.

The operational workforce (i.e. staff and on-site contractors) is expected to remain stable at 320 people. An additional short-term construction workforce of up to 50 people is anticipated.

Approval for the Project will be sought under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (EP&A Act). In accordance with Section 75D(I) of the EP&A Act, the NSW Minister for Planning is the approval authority for the Project.

It is anticipated that the Project Approval would consolidate and replace existing approvals for Metropolitan Colliery.

An Environmental Assessment document will be prepared for the Project which will include relevant environmental baseline and impact assessment studies to address the Director-General’s Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Project. The Environmental Assessment is currently scheduled for submission by mid 2008. Current planning is targeting Project Approval by early 2009.
HCPL commissioned Holmes Air Sciences to undertake an Air Quality Assessment for the Project.

An existing air quality monitoring network is in place at the Metropolitan Colliery and collects baseline air quality information associated with the existing Metropolitan Colliery heavy vehicle movements. The baseline air quality monitoring indicates compliance with applicable air quality criteria.

The majority of potential air quality related impacts due to the Project are related to the development and expansion of materials handling at the Metropolitan Colliery major surface facilities area. Air quality modelling for the Project indicates continued compliance with applicable air quality criteria at the nearest residences.

HCPL commissioned Masson Wilson T winey to undertake a road traffic assessment for the Project.

The existing Metropolitan Colliery haulage of coal reject to the Glenlee Washery (west of Campbelltown) and product coal haulage to the Corrimal and Coalcliff Coke Works (south-east of Hallsburgh) contributes to existing heavy vehicle movements on the public road network. These existing Metropolitan Colliery heavy vehicle movements on the public road network would not be increased by the Project.

A Surface Dust Management Plan has been prepared for the Metropolitan Colliery and will be revised for the Project. Dust and particulate monitoring will continue to be undertaken during the Project life. Due to the close proximity of private residences to the major surface facilities area, as a component of the Project a real time air quality monitoring system would be installed to enable site operators to modify activities as required, to minimise dust generation during adverse conditions.

An assessment of the Project greenhouse gas emissions was also conducted, and the results have been compared with relevant recent state and national greenhouse gas inventories.