

Antiene Rail Spur

Life extension modification



Background

Maxwell Ventures, a wholly owned subsidiary of Malabar Resources, is seeking a minor modification to the development consent for the Antiene Rail Spur (DA 106-04-00). The Antiene Rail Spur is a rail line servicing the newly operational Maxwell Underground Mine (Maxwell Mine) and the existing Mt Arthur Mine. It was originally commissioned in 1983 for the former Drayton Mine.

Maxwell Mine is an underground mining operation owned by Maxwell Ventures, located in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW.

Maxwell Mine is approved to operate for 26 years producing high quality coals, with at least 75% capable of being used in the making of steel with the balance suitable for use in new-generation High Efficiency, Low Emissions (HELE) power generators. It was granted approval by the NSW Independent Planning Commission in December 2020 and by the Australian Government in March 2021.

Maxwell is seeking to modify the development consent for the Antiene Rail Spur (DA 106-04-00) under section 4.55(2) of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Overview of modification

The Modification is located partially within and to the north of the Maxwell Mine's existing infrastructure.

The objective of the Modification is to extend the operation of the Antiene Rail Spur to align with the approved operating life of the Maxwell Mine (i.e. until 2047).

The proposed alteration would not change any of the following key components of the existing development consent for the Antiene Rail Spur:

- Maximum annual transportation limits;
- Maximum train movement limits;
- Transport noise criterion;
- General infrastructure;
- Workforce; and
- Hours of operation.

The Modification also does not propose an increase to surface disturbance. As a result, it is considered the Modification would be 'substantially the same' as the existing approved Antiene Rail Spur Development Consent (DA 106-04-00).



Source: NSW Spatial Services (2023)



Benefits of the Modification

The Modification would provide the following benefits:

- Extend the operation of the Antiene Rail Spur to align with the approved operating life of the Maxwell Project (i.e. until 2047);
- Deliver significant local, regional and State economic benefits through subsequent mining royalties and taxes, with the Maxwell Mine expected to generate approximately \$955 million in royalties and a total net benefit to the NSW economy of over \$1 billion;
- Allow the Hunter region to maintain existing freight transport networks that would minimise negative impacts of freight movements on urban amenity, in accordance with the Hunter Regional Plan 2041;
- Continue to provide efficient access of coal to national and international markets; and
- Facilitate local and regional employment, including more than 250 construction jobs and more than 400 operational jobs at the Maxwell Mine.

The Antiene Rail Spur Modification would allow the full benefits of the Maxwell Mine for the community and local governments to be properly realised, within the environmental conditions and performance measures of the existing development consent.

Assessment of impacts

Maxwell has undertaken a review of the potential environmental impacts of the Modification to identify key potential environmental issues requiring assessment.

Potential environmental impacts associated with the continued use of the Antiene Rail Spur for the Maxwell Mine were assessed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Maxwell Mine. Accordingly, no new technical studies are considered to be required for the Modification. Details of the assessments undertaken can be found in the Maxwell Mine EIS here www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/maxwell-underground-coal-mine-project.

The environmental impacts of the Modification will be managed through the continuation of existing mitigation measures and management plans.

Providing feedback on the Modification

A copy of the proposed Modification is available on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's website www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/modification-1-extension-antiene-rail-spur-development.

Public consultation on the Modification will be from Thursday 29 June until Wednesday 12 July.

