

Berrima Colliery Mine Closure

Community Update



November 2017

Boral is presenting this edition of Community Update for the information of our valued neighbours and wider community.

Mine Closure Update

Following coal extraction ceasing in 2013, the Berrima Colliery remains in '**care and maintenance mode**' - a phase where the mine continues to be monitored and managed while Boral works with the NSW Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Planning & Environment (Resources & Geosciences), WaterNSW and DPI-Water towards final closure.

A regulator-approved complete mine closure of an underground colliery has never been achieved.

Boral recognises the unprecedented nature of this process and continues to undertake significant work to ensure the Berrima site closure reflects a – **best practice model approach**, informed by **scientific data** and advice from **leading experts**.

Recent media commentary has focused on the Berrima Colliery closure process and the monitoring of water discharge into the Wingecarribee River. It is important to note:

1. Boral regularly monitors the water that naturally flows through the old mine, **testing the quality of the water against established guidelines**, and monitoring stream health of the river.
2. The water discharged from the mine is **not contaminated or mine waste**. It is natural groundwater that enters the underground mine workings and flows to the Wingecarribee River via an old adit (mine entry). This groundwater naturally has levels of iron, manganese, nickel and other minerals.
3. While **Boral is not adding anything to the water**, there are however other factors such as low levels of rainfall in the area, upstream licensed discharges from other sources and low river flow, which impact the concentration of minerals and overall water quality.

Commitment to our Community

The mine discharge is approximately 90kms from drinking water stores and it does not pose a risk to the drinking water catchment or people's health.

Testing has consistently found the water going into the Wingecarribee River from the mine to be in line with all of our license conditions and approvals.

In recent months, testing has detected an increase in the concentration of some minerals in the water at the discharge point, exacerbated by historically low rainfall in the catchment.

What does this mean?

- **The increased mineral levels do not pose a risk to the drinking water catchment or people's health.**

Boral takes its responsibilities to the local community and to the environment seriously and will take all steps necessary to ensure we comply with all the relevant State and local guidelines and regulations. This includes:

- Publishing the results of the additional testing on the Boral website to ensure transparency.
- A review of potential feasible water treatment options for consideration by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and other State authorities for both, short term and long term water management solutions.

Attached to this newsletter is a fact sheet providing more detail about the situation. Boral is committed to our local community and we welcome any questions you may have.