

# Boral Berrima (Medway) Colliery

Community Update – SPECIAL EDITION

December 2015

***Boral is pleased to present this special edition of Community Update which focusses upon our proposed closure plan for the former Boral Berrima (Medway) Colliery***

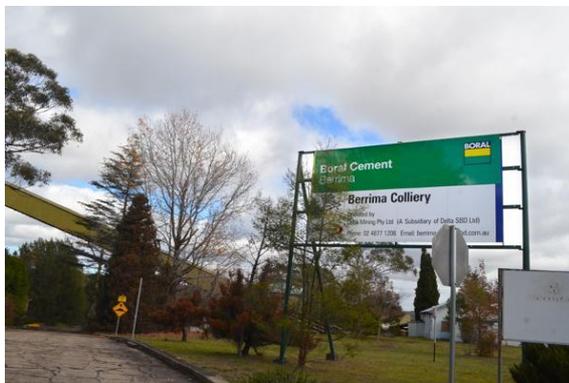
## Planning the end of a 90-year tradition

The Boral Berrima (Medway) Colliery will close within the next two years, drawing an end to a mining tradition which has significantly contributed to the economic and social growth of the Southern Highlands and beyond.

Although currently not operating, the Colliery has not yet 'officially' closed. It has remained under 'care and maintenance' since we transitioned to that status in October 2013.

After careful review, we announced in July 2014 that we would seek to permanently close the mine. In the time since, we've liaised with relevant authorities to identify and define our obligations for achieving approval to 'close'.

This work has resulted in the development of a **Final Closure Plan (FCP)** which we're now sharing with the community.



### ***What's the purpose of the FCP?***

The FCP has been written to take several responsibilities we now have into account.

Firstly, we need to secure the site so it is made as safe as possible. This involves preventing access to the underground mine workings.

We also need to restore and rehabilitate the surface areas of the Colliery so that they harmonise with the local surrounds.

Finally, we need to ensure the flow of groundwater to the Wingecarribee River and its quality is protected over the long-term.

### ***How will the FCP be implemented?***

To help deliver the objectives of the FCP, the Colliery operations have been divided into three zones. These are:

- Surface infrastructure (what you see from Medway and other above-ground viewpoints, including Loch Catherine);
- Mine extraction area (MEA - the surface land above the mine workings); and
- The underground workings.

Each area has its own sub-plan and list of activities for completion.

### ***The plan for the surface and MEA***

The FCP proposes the de-commissioning, demolition and removal of the buildings, equipment and roads within the 'pit top' area, adjacent to Medway village.

Services will be disconnected from the site and any transportable buildings and equipment will be removed for sale or recycling.

A heritage assessment has been carried out to determine whether any items should be retained to indicate the history of mining at the site.

The 'drift bridge' connecting the 'pit top' to the mine will be permanently secured and finally removed to prevent unauthorised access.

### **Your safety is important!**

***Locals are reminded that although operations have ceased at the Colliery, it remains a live mine site and private property.***

***Anyone entering without permission is trespassing and will be referred to the NSW Police. Security measures are in place at the site.***

Like to know more? Call us on 02 4860 2222 or 02 9033 5215.

Or visit [www.boral.com.au/berrimacement](http://www.boral.com.au/berrimacement).

Once the infrastructure and equipment has been removed, earthworks will be undertaken to re-shape the landform, prepare the site for revegetation, and to rehabilitate former operational areas.

After these works are complete, the revegetation will commence in earnest. The aim of the revegetation is to re-establish the local bushland, known as the **Mittagong Sandstone Woodland**, across the site.

Selection of appropriate local species will be undertaken to achieve this outcome. Once sewn, there will be a period of monitoring and maintenance by our contractors to make sure the new plants 'take' and regenerate.

We anticipate the entire program will take up to 24 months. Boral will retain ownership over the site once it is permanently closed, meaning we'll retain the same land care responsibilities as apply to other land owners.



### **What's happening underground?**

The first task for closing the underground mine workings has been to identify and remove any equipment and materials which could potentially affect natural groundwater over the long term.

This process has already largely taken place with the removal of the major equipment used for mining during the past two years.

Oils, fuels and chemicals recovered from storage and equipment have also been taken away for recycling or disposal.

The major part of the process will be the sealing off of the underground workings. Solid concrete seals will be built into a variety of possible entry points, with associated land shaping and landscaping to assist with stability and security.

As with the surface works, the success of these seals will be monitored over a period before the site's mining lease is relinquished back to the Government.



### **What about water?**

Throughout the decades of mining operations, natural groundwater always flowed through the mine to the Wingecarribee River.

The plan to seal the underground workings has taken these flows into consideration given the contribution the groundwater makes to water use by others and the river's water quality.

Initially, following the establishment of the seals, we predict water flows from the mine will reduce somewhat. However, once the mine's workings have flooded (about 12 months), we anticipate flows will return to their natural baseline.

Based on groundwater modelling, we're also expecting groundwater levels servicing local bores to recover as re-pressurisation occurs with the flooding of the underground workings.

## **What do you think?**

As part of the process for the permanent closure, we need to find out whether what we're proposing meets community expectations.

To help us do this, we've put a copy of the FCP on the Boral Berrima website – [www.boral.com.au/berrimacement](http://www.boral.com.au/berrimacement).

We'd like to encourage interested neighbours and stakeholders to review the documents and, if you'd like, send us your questions via our [feedback@boral.com.au](mailto:feedback@boral.com.au) email address.

You can also call us on **9033 5056**, **9033 5215** or **4860 2302** with any questions you may have.

All formal comments can be sent to the NSW Department of Resources & Energy via [minres.environment@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:minres.environment@industry.nsw.gov.au) up until **Friday, 8 January 2016**.