



Media Release

Darwin City Council

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Olympic Dam Expansion

For immediate release: Tuesday 18 August 2009

BHP Billiton has published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) with a view to gaining approval from the Australian, South Australian and Northern Territory Governments to undertake a major expansion of the Olympic Dam mine and minerals processing operation in northern South Australia and to develop associated infrastructure.

Darwin City Council Environment & Infrastructure Committee yesterday endorsed a report which outlines several questions regarding the Draft EIS as it concerns transportation of hazardous materials through Darwin Harbour.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer noted that while the operations are outside of the Darwin City Council sphere of influence, Darwin City Council is still obliged to represent the community's best interest.

"Even though East Arm Port is outside the city boundaries and Council has no legislative power to regulate this type of activity, it is still of great concern to Darwin City Council that Darwin Harbour remains protected in every way" Mr Sawyer said. "We can see no obvious problems, however we have some questions not clearly addressed in the Draft EIS."

The endorsed report calls for clarification on issues of waste management and clear directions for accident mitigation to be put to both BHP Billiton as a part of the public consultation process associated with the Draft EIS. The report also recommends that

the Northern Territory Government are notified of these issues so they can be considered as a part of the approval process.

The Draft EIS is available online;

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/baseMetals/olympicDam.jsp>

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Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer is available for comment on this issue.

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