

NEW SOUTH WALES*

On 1 June 1993, the *Mining (General) Regulation 1992* was amended to increase the fees payable for, inter alia, the renewal and transfer of mineral claims, and the transfer by devolution of such claims.

On 10 June 1993, the Minister for Natural Resources, Mr Ian Causley M.P., launched the new Environmental Policy of the New South Wales Coal Association. The policy reflects the increasingly complex and integrated role that environmental considerations play in the coal business. It has been prepared in accordance with the concept of sustainable development. The policy covers all environmental issues relating to the coal industry, including the potential for climate change from the burning of fossil fuels.

On 18 June 1993, the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 1980* was amended so as to remove from the development declared by that regulation to be designated development, certain mines and extractive industries which are defined as continued operations by the new *State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) No. 37 — Continued Mines and Extractive Industries*.

On the same day, SEPP37 was also gazetted. SEPP37 provides for a moratorium period during which time existing mines or extractive industries may continue operation and enlarge, expand or intensify a continued operation without the necessity for development consent, provided that they are registered with the relevant consent authority and the continued operation meets with SEPP37 criteria. Registration must take place within three months of the commencement of SEPP37. The moratorium period commences at the end of the three month registration period and runs for two years.

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