

# COUNCIL POLICY

**Policy Name**

Town Planning – Resource Development

**Abstract**

To provide guidance to Council issues that relate to the development of coal mining proposals.

<b>Dates</b>	Policy or amendment approved	18 Nov 2020
	Policy or amendment takes effect	01 Dec 2020
	Policy is due for review (up to 4 years)	18 Nov 2024
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Executive Management Team	
<b>Approved by</b>	Gunnedah Shire Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on 18 Nov 2020. Resolution number: 22.11/20	
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Director Planning and Environmental Services	
<b>Relevant to</b>	Council	
<b>Superseded Policies</b>	Town Planning – Resource Development adopted 16 Dec 2006	
<b>Related documents</b>	NA	
<b>Related legislation</b>	NA	

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## 1. Purpose

In analysing resource development proposals such as coal mining, natural gas proposals and other mining activities, even at the exploration licence (EL) phase, there will be factors that require consideration, having regard to the overall community interest.

While not all of the considerations listed in this Policy will be relevant to every proposal, it is important that such matters are identified and the relevance considered as a check list for Council's benefit when making a judgement on such proposals.

## 2. Scope

This policy provides Council with general guidance of relevant issues that should be considered when establishing a position on resource development proposals.

## 3. Definitions

GSC	Gunnedah Shire Council
LGA	Local Government Area
EL	Exploration License
ACA	Access and Compensation Arrangements
Costeaning	Costeaning means the process by which miners seek to discover metallic lodes. It consists of sinking small pits through the superficial deposits to the solid rock and then driving from one pit to another across the direction of the vein, in such manner as to cross all the veins between the two pits.

## 4. Policy Principles

Gunnedah Shire Council seeks to ensure that sound environmental practices exist in all levels of resource development, within the Gunnedah LGA and adjoining LGA's and effective community consultation and awareness is followed in the various development processes in order to achieve balanced and sustainable outcomes that adequately contribute to the local economy and community whilst having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

## 5. Policy Statement

### 5.1 General

In analysing its overall position on a resource development or potential resource development proposal, Council shall be mindful to the following matters.

- Strategic context of the proposal
- Identification and management of issues
- Impact analysis and mitigation measures
- Adequacy and availability of base data to justify a proposal
- Potential alternative development options

- Socio-economic considerations
- Infrastructure implications
- Natural resource implications
- Environmental implications
- Ecological sustainability of the proposal

## 5.2 Specific

In considering proposal, regardless of status Council may have regard to the following critical areas:

- Transportation matters
- Soil and geological issues
- Agricultural implications
- Water issues (General)
- Groundwater impacts
- Surface Water impacts
- Air quality issues
- Noise, vibration and blasting issues
- Flora and fauna issues
- Aboriginal heritage matters
- Other heritage issues
- Visual impacts
- Potential hazards
- Social and health concerns
- Economic issues
- Community issues
- Cumulative impacts
- Environmental impact
- Environmental management
- Consultation and engagement issues
- Infrastructure considerations
- Rehabilitation

In establishing its position on a resource development proposal Council may consider issues outside the scope of those listed in this policy given the localised or broader context of such analysis due to the specific or unique circumstances, as determined by Council, of the individual proposal.

## 5.3 Compensation Fees

When assessing Access and Compensation Arrangements (ACA) submitted by holders of Exploration Licences prospecting for resources the following minimum compensation fees shall be considered.

Activity	Amount	Conditions
Drilling	\$600.00	Per diamond drill hole or mud drill hole per week or part thereof
	\$400.00	
	\$300.00	Per reverse circulation drill hole per week or part thereof
	\$300.00	
	\$300.00	
\$300.00	Per hole drilled by rotary air blast per week or part thereof	

		Per auger hole per week or part thereof
Costeasing #	\$2.50	Per square metre per week of land surface disturbed including the hole, the area covered by the spoil and the area disturbed by the tracks of wheels of the excavator.
Track Clearing	\$100.00	Per kilometre of new vehicle tracks not requiring construction
	\$25.00	Per kilometre for usage of existing tracks
Dust Nuisance	\$520.00	Per annum when exploration is conducted where a drill site occupation will exceed 2 months
Environmental Studies	\$100.00	Per day when drill site is accessed
Seismic Survey	\$600.00	Per day during term of survey work
Legal Advice	\$600.00	Minimum reimbursement in obtaining legal advice in relation to arrangement

All fees are GST exclusive

Compensation for a drill site occupation shall apply whilst a drill rig is on each individual site and until the site is decommissioned, all plant removed and site rehabilitated.

#### 5.4 Legal and Technical Analysis

Legal advice may be sought by the General Manager as well as both internal and external technical appraisal of an ACA prior to consideration of the ACA by Council.

### 6. Accountability, roles and responsibility

6.1 Policy Custodian  
Director Planning and Environmental Services

6.2 Responsible Officer  
Director Planning and Environmental Services

### 7. Acknowledgements

Nil.

### 8. Version Control and change history

Date	Version	Approved by and Resolution No.	Amendment
20 Feb 2008	1	Council Meeting Resolution 180.3	
16 Dec 2009	2	Council Meeting Resolution 137.1	
18 Nov 2020	3	Council Meeting Resolution 22.11/20	Resolution: That Gunnedah Shire Council reaffirm its current policy position on any potential resources development within the Shire and document amended to new format.