

# 1.6mtpa mining increase allowed

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THE Isaac Plains Coal Mine was yesterday given the green light to expand its coal production by 1.6 million tonnes per annum (mtpa).

**Aquila Resources** announced that Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability Kate Jones had approved the conditions for a new environmental approval that would allow for the expansion.

Aquila Resources executive chairman Tony Poli said the green light was the culmination of an environmental impact statement process that had involved extensive discussions with relevant stakeholders.

“The outcome of this

work will be a new set of environmental conditions for the mine, including industry-leading dust-control monitoring to be implemented as part of this expansion,” Mr Poli said.

“Isaac Plains Coal Mine will now increase production from 2.0 mtpa to the target of 3.6 mtpa of run of mine coal production,” he said.

As part of the expansion, the mine’s recently refurbished \$50 million dragline will be put into operation at a cost of about \$36 million, creating about 100 jobs during construction.

Isaac Plains is an open-cut metallurgical coal mine near Moranbah, jointly by Aquila and Vale.