

# CHARBON/INGLENOOK COMBINED COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2020

## Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Charbon Coal Mine & Inglenook Exploration Project	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January - December 2020
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Diana Barnes Thomas Dubos</b>

### 1. Executive Summary

The Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is a unique consultative committee, being a Government approved combination of two committees established at very different stages of mining and the approvals process. The Inglenook Project Exploration Committee was established by the then Minister for Primary Industries at the end of 2010 and covers an area of 9734ha under four Exploration Leases. The Charbon Coal Mine is at the end of mine life, with underground mining and open cut mining completed in 2014 and 2015 respectively. Coal mining has occurred at the Charbon site since 1920 and currently covers an area of approximately 2,692ha, consisting of six open cut mining areas; two historic underground mining areas; rail loop and loading facilities and a coal handling and processing plant. The original Charbon CCC began in May 2004 and became a subsequent condition of consent for later approvals. The Charbon Colliery is located approximately four kilometres south of Kandos in the Mid Western Regional Council Local Government Area and the Inglenook Exploration Project covers four leaseholds in the Running Stream Ilford area, mainly in the Lithgow City Council Local Government Area.

The release of the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Guidelines for State Significant Development in late 2016 and the move of the Division of the then Resources and Energy into the Planning and Environment Cluster the following year provided a timely opportunity to merge the two committees into one because of the many synergies between them; both are part of Centennial Coal operations, shared the same Chair, similar membership and meeting schedule and the communities are closely related, both in physical proximity and foundation of their social fabric. All parties supported the merge, membership remained the same and the first joint meeting was held in October 2017.

The Committee operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects and meets biannually.

The committee is currently comprised of:

- ten local community representatives, two of whom are members of the Running Stream Water Users Association and one from the Rylstone District Environment Society;
- one Mid Western Regional Council elected representative/community representative in a dual capacity;
- two representatives (elected and staff) from Lithgow City Council;

- four Centennial representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

The tenure of the committee remains consistent with good attendance numbers at the meetings. The committee would normally alternate the meeting venue between the Charbon Colliery and the Inglenook Project Office at Running Stream. However, because of Covid-19 concerns and restrictions, the March meeting was cancelled, with the September meeting taking place in the Running Stream Community Hall to meet Covid-19 requirements. With technology issues and bad reception constraints, meetings via tele/video conferencing were not an option for the committee. The presentation for the March meeting was sent to all members, inviting any questions. No issues were raised from the committee. The strong kinship exists amongst the members, most are long term and generational residents and farmers of the area, forming a close knit community, who are interested in not only the rehabilitation of the Charbon Colliery and the progress of the Inglenook exploration program, but other developments in the local area and region.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been similar to the previous year's reporting. For Charbon; the progressive rehabilitation being undertaken, the decommission of the reject emplacement areas, the Rehabilitation and Closure Mining Operations Plan approval, the Clarence Colliery Coarse Coal Reject material modification, water management; the Charbon/Airly Water Transfer Project and the water level at Reedy Creek Dam.

For Inglenook, the exploration project updates, including renewal of lease applications and the completion of the exploration drilling program of seven boreholes during the reporting period. The length of the exploration period and what has been discovered during that period was also discussed.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- Covid-19 Response
- general environmental management and monitoring, including aquatic ecology, flora and fauna, noise, air quality, surface and groundwater, erosion control
- management of Centennial owned land, weed control and feral animal management
- 2019 bushfire incidents and management and gratitude of community for assistance from Centennial personnel
- Ongoing efforts and management of illegal trespass through the mining lease
- community complaints
- approvals, update and progress on Charbon mine closure activities
- 2019 Charbon Coal Annual Review
- baseline environmental data collection for Inglenook
- exploration activities and proposed drilling program
- community engagement and sponsorship
- Community newsletter
- Community information sessions on Angus Place extension project, Springvale Water Treatment Plant, Clarence Water Transfer Project, Lidsdale Siding Rail Unloader.

The committee is provided with a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation of activities as part of each meeting. The CCC remains an effective conduit between the community, the Councils and the company. A good rapport exists amongst all the members and it functions well, indicative that there have been no community complaints for the reporting period nor in previous years.

## **2. CCC activities over last 12 months**

- There was only one meeting held in September because of Covid-19 restrictions.
- Meeting schedules are set at the end of each year for the ensuing year in consultation with all members to avoid conflict with other commitments.
- No site tour was undertaken during the year.
- There were no joint CCC's held, although community information sessions on other Centennial operations in the region were held, in addition to the distribution of a community newsletter.

## **3. Key issues**

As mining has ceased at Charbon, the focus will remain on the rehabilitation activities and targets reached towards mine closure. For the Inglenook project, continuation of progress reports and exploration updates are key matters of interest.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Trespass and safety issues on Kandos State Forest access road through Charbon mining lease</b>	<p>Prior site inspection by committee to identify problem. Centennial discussed road closure with all relevant authorities.</p> <p>Access gate locked.</p> <p>Illegal camping shut down by Centennial personnel and removal of potential fire hazard from vacated camp site.</p>	<p>Ongoing vigilance by Centennial personnel.</p>
<b>Land management</b>	<p>Feral animal control - notification to landowners and coordination with Local Land Services</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<b>Clarence Clarence Colliery Course Coal Reject material modification</b>	<p>Question on coal composition and transfer method raised at committee meeting</p>	<p>Project summary and presentation provided at September meeting.</p> <p>Progress and update to be provided at March 2021 meeting</p>
<b>Inglenook Exploration</b>	<p>Discussion on lengthy exploration period and what this has revealed.</p> <p>Drilling methods and interaction with aquifers</p>	<p>Presentation to the September meeting on exploration findings; depth of cover, direction and extent of seams and coal measures, drill core samples and explanation on drilling methodology that prevents connectivity and cement grouting process on completion of drilling.</p> <p>Updates ongoing to each meeting.</p> <p>Committee members to be kept informed of future drilling locations.</p>


#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- site inspections on rehabilitation and mine closure.
- updates on proposed transfer of water to Airly.
- updates on coarse reject placement from Clarence.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	March 14 2021