

CHARBON/INGLENOOK COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2021

Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Charbon Coal Mine & Inglenook Exploration Project	Reporting Period:	January - December 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Greg Munday Thomas Dubos

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:

- nine local community representatives, one of whom is a member 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 committee meeting schedule was impacted again this year from Covid-19. The March meeting took place as a normal face-to-face meeting at the Running Stream Community Hall. However, the September meeting was via telephone dial in only because of ongoing technology problems obviating the option of video-conferencing. Unfortunately this meeting experienced a large number of apologies regardless because adequate reception to landlines in the area is now greatly affected by the National Broadband Network.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been similar to the previous year's reporting. At Charbon; the progressive rehabilitation, trials and flora species on the reject emplacement areas and the Clarence Colliery Coarse Coal Reject material modification. For Inglenook, the exploration project updates, including renewal of lease applications and the status of the exploration drilling program, what it revealed and the future of the project, given the extensive exploration time involved.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- water management improvements at Charbon
- rehabilitation progress and schedule at Charbon
- general environmental management and monitoring, including aquatic ecology, flora and fauna, noise, air quality, surface and groundwater, erosion control
- Independent Environmental Audit for Charbon
- community complaints
- approvals, update and progress on Charbon mine closure activities
- baseline environmental data collection for Inglenook
- exploration activities and proposed drilling program
- community engagement and sponsorship.

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 two local Councils and the company. There have been no complaints for the reporting period, a reasonable indication there are no major concerns within the local communities. The members are long term residents in the area and well known. A good rapport exists amongst all the members and it functions well.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Two meetings were held in 2021, one in March and the other in September via telephone dial in 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 because of Covid-19.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

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 the future of the exploration project remain stable. A general discussion was also had on the future of coal in a changing global environment.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Clarence Clarence Colliery Course Coal Reject material modification	Question on coal composition rejects analysis raised by Committee meeting. Detail provided to March 2021 meeting.	Modification approved – complete.
Inglenook Exploration	Discussion on lengthy exploration period and what this has revealed.	Updates ongoing to each meeting. Committee members to be kept informed of any future drilling locations.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- site inspections on rehabilitation and mine closure.

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 8 2022

