

## Ashton Community Consultative Committee (CCC) 2023 Annual Report

<b>CCC project name:</b>	Ashton Coal Operations	<b>Reporting period:</b>	January – December 2023
<b>Independent chairperson:</b>	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	<b>Proponent contact:</b>	Phillip Brown, Environment & Community Relations Superintendent

### 1. Executive summary / introduction

The Ashton Coal Mine CCC was established in October 2002 by the Minister for Planning’s approval of an open cut coal mine, an underground coal mine and associated surface facilities approximately fourteen kilometres north west of the town of Singleton within the Local Government Area of Singleton Shire. The mine produces coal for the export market through the Port of Newcastle and currently employs around two hundred and seventy four people.

The committee is comprised of:

- three local community representatives;
- one elected Singleton Shire Councillor representative;
- two Ashton Coal Mine representatives with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

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

- The Committee met three times during the reporting period, in February, June and October and discussed general environmental management and monitoring, operational activities, land management and rehabilitation activities, company reports, revised DPE CCC guidelines and requirements and outcomes from Triennial Independent Environmental Audit.
- Each meeting achieved a quorum with the occasional apology tendered for work or health related reasons.
- There were no site visits carried out during 2023. However, at the June meeting, the committee had the benefit of a presentation from an archaeologist engaged to liaise with the Registered Aboriginal Parties on artefact salvage works. Her findings, including the physical objects presented, their history and explanation and management of cultural heritage were most welcome and very informative to the members.
- At the October meeting, the Manager for Stakeholder Engagement and Communications from the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue addressed the committee on their key projects, achievements and planned activities. This update was constructive and edifying, given the current debate on climate change and fossil fuels.

- As stated in previous reporting, whilst only a small committee of long standing and dedicated members, with ongoing contact between all parties beyond the meeting schedule, the committee is effective and fulfils its purpose under the current Departmental guidelines. All committee members have signed the revised Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest documents and adopted a Terms of Reference as required by the Department.
- Another year without any community complaints, indicative that Ashton Coal's engagement practises within the community and the committee itself are both effective and well established.

### 3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
<b>Landcare and property management, including Camberwell properties and amenity</b>	Updates provided on land management works and maintenance of mine owned Camberwell properties	Ongoing updates to be provided to the Committee
<b>Approval and progress of Ashton-Ravensworth Integration - RUMEX Project</b>	Updates on transfer of mining leases from Ravensworth, Management and Extraction plans and first workings development	Ongoing updates to be provided to the Committee as this progresses
<b>Ashton Community Support Program</b>	Company support and sponsorship within the community, including provision of quick response fire units.	Ongoing updates to be provided to the Committee

### 4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Continued comprehensive reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/ responses and planned activities
- There are no known outstanding issues and these will be addressed when and if they occur.

Name of chairperson:	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>
Date:	15 January 2024