

Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2024 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Charbon Coal Mine/Inglenook Exploration Project	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2024.
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Greg Munday, Charbon Rehabilitation Manager Peter Holloway, Inglenook Project Manager

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Centennial Charbon/Inglenook CCC is unlike other committees in that it combines an end of life coal mine at Charbon in the final stages of rehabilitation with that of the exploration project of Inglenook. The merger of the committees was approved by the former Minister for Planning and Minister for Primary Industries in 2017.

Coal mining has occurred since 1920 at Charbon and covers an area of approximately 2,692 hectares of former open cut and underground mining and historic areas, with a rail loop and coal handling preparation plant (CHPP). The original committee, established in 2004, was part of ongoing consent approvals through the Department of Planning. Both underground and open cut mining was completed in 2014-15 and a large part of land is under rehabilitation, expected to be completed by the end of 2025. The site is approximately four kilometres south of Kandos and located in the Mid-Western Regional Council Local Government Area.

The Inglenook project is situated mostly in the Lithgow City Council Local Government Area, comprising an area of approximately 6798 hectares under four leaseholds in the Running Stream/Ilford area. The original Ministerial exploration committee was established in 2010.

In view of the advanced stages of rehabilitation of the Charbon site, Mid-Western Regional Council resolved in November 2024 not to appoint any representatives to this committee. Similarly, with little activity occurring for the Inglenook project, Lithgow City Council also chose not to appoint a representative to the committee. Both councils do receive copies of committee meeting minutes and presentations.

With these two changes, the committee is currently comprised of:

- Four local community representatives;
- two members of the Running Stream Water Users Association (including an alternate) as a stakeholder group;
- one member from the Rylstone District Environment Society as a stakeholder group;
- two Centennial representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- an independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

The committee maintained the meeting schedule of previous years and met in March and September. Topics discussed for the reporting period were the successful capping trial of the Main Reject Emplacement Area, demolition of the pit top infrastructure at Charbon, routine environmental monitoring and baseline studies for both sites, land management (weeds and feral animal control) with no complaints received.

The committee received a briefing on Centennial's fatal risk program across all sites and organisational restructure. The triennial Independent Audit was undertaken with no concerns raised by committee members.

At the March meeting the committee was informed of a couple of unlicensed discharges caused by the January heavy rain events, which led to a variation of the EPL for Charbon. A discussion ensued on water discharge points, the Water Management Plan and the progress of Modification 3 on final landform contours, Reedy Creek and the removal of the rail loop.

With the review of the Inglenook project and application for partial relinquishment of lease areas, the viability study expected in 2025, raised interest in the future of the project, the coal quality of the area, potential transport options and destination to the power station.

Meetings are held on site at Charbon. The committee did not have a formal site tour during the year, although the Rylstone District Environment Society, as a stakeholder group, did so.

Attendance at meetings remains unchanged from previous years with all members maintaining their interest in what is occurring or planned for in their local area. A good rapport exists amongst all parties.

At the October meeting, the members confirmed the currency of the Terms of Reference for the ensuing year.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Rehabilitation of Charbon Mine site	Successful capping trial of main reject emplacement area, final land form, shaping and contouring completed in July 2024. Annual preventative action to preserve scar tree undertaken August 2024.	Ongoing progressive rehabilitation across site towards 2025 completion. Updates provided to CCC at each meeting. Site tour planned for 2025.
Inglenook exploration	Concept and feasibility study review.	Update to be reported to CCC March 2025 meeting.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- The planned activities for 2025 will include an inspection of the Charbon rehabilitation, together with continued reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/responses.
- The much awaited viability of the Inglenook project should provide the committee with answers to Centennial's future plans for the area. Other than this, there are no known outstanding or emerging issues.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 21 2025.