

## Ashton Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for 2022.

### Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Ashton Coal Mine	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January - December 2022
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Phillip Brown</b>

### 1. Executive Summary

The Ashton Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee was established as part of a condition of consent by the Minister for Planning's October 2002 approval of Development Application 309/01 for an open cut coal mine, an underground coal mine and associated surface facilities, known as the Ashton Coal Project. The project is situated approximately fourteen kilometres north west of the town of Singleton in the Local Government Area of Singleton Shire and produces coal for the export market through the Port of Newcastle.

The Committee operates in accordance with the 2019 version of the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Meetings are held three times per year and the committee is comprised of:

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

The representation on the committee has not changed and given the longevity of the members, all are well respected and known to each other as is often the case in small, regional communities. Agenda items and comprehensive reports are provided by Ashton Coal personnel in advance of the three committee meetings held each year.

The matters discussed during the reporting period are similar to those of previous years; company reports and activities, the Camberwell cottages, weed control management, feral animal control and 1080 baiting program and results, Yancoal managed properties, rehabilitation progress and Archaeological salvage works. The proposed Ashton-Ravensthorpe underground integration modification (Rumex) was discussed at the February and June meetings and the committee subsequently informed of its approval in July 2022. There were no community complaints logged for 2022.

Other matters discussed were:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including heritage, air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- land management and rehabilitation activities
- Ashton Coal statistics including production ratios, sales, total recordable injuries, employees and environmental incidents
- mining areas, extraction plans, exploration boreholes rehabilitation and drilling planning
- operations and environmental activities updates, including incident reports
- community complaints
- Yancoal community sponsorship and donations
- Review of DPE CCC Guidelines
- Triennial Independent Environmental Audit

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held in the months of February, June and December. No site tours were undertaken.
- There were no joint meetings held with other CCC's.

## 3. Key issues

There is no change in status of the key matters raised by the members, other than an acknowledgement of the large amount of rain during the last two years and the potential risk for increased grass fires. The community members maintain their watching brief on the Camberwell Village, the maintenance and weed control of the company owned properties.


Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Feral animal baiting control</b>	Request by committee that prior notice be given to CCC members.	Advance notice is given to committee, along with existing public notification advertisements at each event. Ongoing as required.
<b>Camberwell cottages and land held by company</b>	Information on properties status and maintenance provided to the committee.	Ongoing to each meeting.
<b>Weed management</b>	Additional species added to list 2022 weed management program.	Coolatai grass slashing

#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

- The planned activities for 2023 will be guided by the contributions and interests of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:
- interest in weed control and land management
- review of ongoing environmental monitoring
- operational activities including progress of Rumex Project
- Yancoal community support program

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:	February 27 2023