

CHARBON/INGLENOOK COMBINED COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2019

Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Charbon Coal Mine & Inglenook Exploration Project	Reporting Period:	January - December 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Greg Brown Thomas Dubos

1. Executive Summary

The Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is a unique consultative committee as it is 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 Minister for Primary Industries at the end of 2010 and covers an area of 9734ha under four Exploration Leases. The Charbon Coal Mine is approaching 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 release of the Department of Planning and Environment's new 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 meets biannual and alternates the meeting venue between the Charbon Colliery and the Inglenook Project Office at Running Stream. 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 Committee operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

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. A strong kinship exists amongst the members, most are long term residents of the area and part of a close knit community, who are interested in the rehabilitation of the Charbon Colliery and the progress of the Inglenook exploration program.

For the reporting period, the committee's interest has been similar to the previous year's reporting; the progressive rehabilitation being undertaken at Charbon, the locking of the gate to the Kandos State Forest Road to prevent trespass and address safety concerns, the proposed modification on the water transfer to the Airly Mine via rail transport, the possible use of coarse reject material from Clarence used for void rehabilitation, results from the Inglenook exploration drilling program and progress of access agreements. The introduction of the reporting of rainfall comparison between Mudgee and Lithgow as requested by the committee, the review of a draft community newsletter for the Inglenook Project and a presentation on Banpu, the parent company of Centennial.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- 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
- community complaints
- approvals update and progress on Charbon mine closure activities
- baseline environmental data collection for Inglenook
- exploration activities and proposed drilling program
- 2018 Annual Return
- broader 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 communication forum between the community, the Councils and the company. A good rapport exists amongst all the members and it functions well. There were no community complaints for the period and a survey of members' view on the committee's efficacy indicate it is fulfilling its objectives under the Department's guidelines:

- *"In my opinion, the CCC is of benefit to me and my surrounding interested neighbours. I am able to relay to them information about the mine's activities and future plans, and they let me know of any issues they have with the mine, which I bring to the next CCC meeting. I see myself as a connection between my local community and the mine".*
- *"Basically the CCC's do provide an opportunity for discussion between members of the community and the company. My experience is that the active participation of the members depends on the skills and knowledge of the appointees which seems to vary a good deal. Also companies have a habit of presenting modifications at a meeting and requiring an immediate decision. There is no time to engage with community and provide feedback. Council engages with companies outside the CCC process which makes it difficult for Council representatives to express a view contrary to the adopted Council stance. Minutes of the CCC meetings are emailed to all councillors who have the opportunity to ask questions if they so desire".*

- o *establish good working relationships and promote information sharing between the company, local community, council and stakeholder groups?*
 - *"Yes agree".*
 - o *keep the community informed about projects/proposals, seek community views and respond to matters raised within the community?*
 - *"Yes agree".*
 - o *allow you the opportunity to seek information and give feedback on the development and implementation of projects/proposals to assist in achieving a balance of social, environmental and economical outcomes within the community?*
 - *"Yes agree".*
- *"I always found the meetings worthwhile. Keep it going".*
 - *"From my perspective and being involved for some time now on the Inglenook CCC I think we are at a good point. The meetings are constructive, we have a reliable format to them and we always keep on track. I believe we are meeting all objectives. If Inglenook gains more traction the frequency of the meetings might need to increase to ensure we are keeping everyone up to date however this is something we have been open about for some time".*

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- During the reporting period, the committee met in March and September.
- Attendance at meetings is well attended. 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.
- A site visit of the rehabilitation at Charbon was undertaken at the conclusion of the September meeting.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

3. Key issues

As mining has ceased at Charbon, the focus is mainly on the rehabilitation activities and targets reached and mine closure. For the Inglenook project, it remains progress reports and exploration updates. The committee has maintained its interest in the Airly and Clarence operations as stated above.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Trespass and safety issues on Kandos State Forest access road through Charbon mining lease	Prior site inspection by committee to identify problem. Centennial discussed road closure with all relevant authorities.	Access gate locked.
Baseline metrological collection	Committee suggestion to include collection of rainfall for Inglenook from Mudgee as well as Lithgow and Running Stream.	Implemented and part of regular reporting.
Land management	Feral animal control - notification to landowners and coordination with Local Land Services	Ongoing.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 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:	April 20 2020