

Charbon/Inglenook Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Charbon Coal Mine/Inglenook Exploration Project	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2023
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 and received both the former Minister for Planning and Minister for Primary Industries approval to combine the two committees 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 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 9734 hectares under four leaseholds in the Running Stream/Ilford area. The original Ministerial exploration committee was established in 2010.

The committee is 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;
- one Mid-Western Regional Council elected representative;
- one staff representative from Lithgow City Council;
- two Centennial representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- an independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

- The committee maintains the meeting schedule of previous years and continues to meet biannually in March and September. Topics discussed for the reporting period were the successful capping trial of the Main Reject Emplacement Area, demolition of the CHPP, routine environmental monitoring and baseline studies for both sites, land management (weeds and feral animal control) with no complaints received for 2023.

The revised DPE CCC guidelines were also discussed and the committee have signed the revised Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest documents and agreed on a Terms of Reference at the September meeting, as required by the department.

As no further exploration or drilling has occurred since 2021 for Inglenook, the expected timing around the Mining, Exploration and Geoscience Division’s renewal of the exploration licence and the company’s concept study and review of the project were also raised and led to a brief discussion on coal fired power stations and transition to renewables, followed by a committee member’s request for a representative from Banpu/Centennial Corporate to attend a future CCC meeting and speak on company philosophy and plans for the area.

- Attendance at meetings is consistent with previous years and is predictable, given the long history and surrounding local communities interest in the area. As such, the committee is considered effective in maintaining good community engagement and exchange of information between all parties. Like other CCCs local government representation is minimal while there are no major concerns.
- Meetings are held on site at Charbon but no formal inspections were undertaken during 2023.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Rehabilitation of Charbon Mine site	Successful capping trial achieved in 2023, final land form, shaping and contouring to be completed Q4 2023 prior to seeding.	Ongoing progressive rehabilitation across site towards 2025 completion. Updates provided to CCC at each meeting.
Inglenook exploration	Concept and feasibility study underway.	Update to be reported to CCC March 2024 meeting.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- The planned activities for 2024 are likely to include an inspection of the Charbon rehabilitation, attendance at a meeting by a representative from Corporate (as indicated above), together with continued reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/ responses.
- Currently, there are no known outstanding or emerging issues. However, it is reasonable to expect these will be addressed when and as they occur.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 23 2024.