

# Bickham Coal Company

## Media Release

***Tuesday 17 December 2002***

Bickham Coal Company says it regrets that lack of notice prevented the organisation of a site inspection and briefing for Greens Senator Bob Brown today.

The company, which is seeking approval for a 25,000-tonne bulk coal sample from a property 13 kilometres south of Murrurundi, said the request from Senator Brown's office (and from resident Patrice Newell) on Monday came too late to organise representatives to attend on Tuesday morning.

David Foster of Bickham Coal said both he and consultant Ian Pankhurst had commitments today which they were unable to change at the last minute.

*"Unfortunately there's no property manager on the Bickham site, all gates are locked, no work is being carried out, and no staff could be diverted from other tasks across the Hunter Valley."*

Mr Foster said he had informed Senator Brown's office that Bickham Coal Company would be happy to arrange a site inspection and a detailed briefing - given a few days notice - at a mutually convenient time.

*"With Senator Brown's curiosity about the project, it's in our interest to ensure he's fully informed. That's why it's unfortunate we were unable to arrange a meeting this time around. I hope that with some more notice we can re-assure the Senator of our intention to protect the environment at every stage of this project."*

### **More information?**

Contact **Chris Ford** at FordComm anytime on **4929 2063**.