

Bickham Coal Company

Media Release

12 June 2003

New studies have found that the impact of the proposed extraction of a 25,000-tonne bulk coal sample from a property 13 kilometres south of Murrurundi will have negligible effect on water flow in the Pages River.

A meeting of the Bickham Coal Community Consultative Committee at Murrurundi Council Chambers yesterday evening (11 June) was presented with details of extensive research on surface and ground water in relation to the proposal at Bickham.

The hydrology studies, including extended pump-out trials, showed that the amount of ground water to be removed during the bulk sample excavation is far less than originally predicted.... less than 16 megalitres over six months.

The tests also showed that the reduction of water flow into the Pages River during the bulk sample extraction will be less than one megalitre.

David Foster of Bickham Coal Company also informed the meeting of the results of additional investigations on the geology of the site and that the window of opportunity to have the bulk sample washed and loaded at Dartbrook had closed.

"We are investigating all other alternatives, but it may be necessary to transport the coal by road to Rix's Creek mine."

Mr Foster said results of the studies have been passed on to relevant government departments and Murrurundi Council.

An updated Review of Environmental Factors - incorporating the new information - will be completed by the end of the month and then placed on exhibition for public comment.

More information?

Contact **Lynne Johns** or **Chris Ford** at FordComm anytime on **4929 2063**.