

Bickham Coal Company

Media Release

Tuesday 25 February 2003

A meeting of the Bickham Coal Community Consultative Committee at Murrurundi Council Chambers has been briefed on the progress of new studies in relation to the proposal for a 25,000-tonne bulk coal sample from a property 13 kilometres south of the town.

David Foster of Bickham Coal Company said a 200 millimetre diameter test bore, located to the north-east of the proposed bulk sample location, was completed to a depth of 90 metres on 13 February.

Extended pump-out trials from the bore will determine any link between groundwater at the bulk sample site and the Pages River.

Members of the Consultative Committee and Departments of Mineral Resources and Land & Water Conservation will be invited to observe the tests.

Initial air lift pumping tests showed low water flows from the bore, according to David Foster. If confirmed in the extended pump-out trials, water extraction during the bulk sample would be much lower than expected.

Once details of the hydrological investigations are finalised they will be provided to the Consultative Committee and the local community.

The meeting of the Consultative Committee was told that further geological investigation was also underway to answer questions posed on behalf of the Bickham Coal Action Group.

David Foster said he hoped the company would be able to respond to the inquiry after the extended pump-out trials were completed and analysed.

More information?

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