

Bickham Coal Company

Media Release

31 July 2003

The final Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for Bickham Coal Company's proposed 25,000-tonne bulk coal sample from a property 13 kilometres south of Murrurundi will be ready for public exhibition by mid-August.

Bickham Coal Company is proceeding with the finalisation of the REF following recent confirmation from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) that a new water plan, submitted in June 2003, has been received and reviewed.

"The groundwater report provided the information requested by DIPNR and enables assessment of the proposed project", stated the response from DIPNR.

"The review process by DIPNR was to gain independent validation of the report's technical processes including methodology, assessment and conclusions," said David Foster, Bickham Coal Company.

The final REF will be the result of extensive studies of surface and ground water in relation to the proposal as well as a five-month field program of additional investigations.

For further information

Contact **Helen Nelson** or **Chris Ford** at FordComm anytime on **4929 2063**.