

Bickham Coal Company

Media Release

13 May 2004

New Community Committee for Bickham Coal

Applications have been called for membership of a new Community Consultative Committee for the Bickham Coal bulk sample project.

Scone resident and former Councillor Warren Cook has been appointed to chair the Committee, which provides a forum for interaction between the community, government agencies and the company. Formation of the Committee was one of the conditions of consent for the project.

The New South Wales Minister for Mineral Resources, Kerry Hickey, announced in January that he had approved the application for a 25,000-tonne bulk coal sample from a property 13 kilometres south of Murrurundi.

At that time Bickham Coal director David Foster assured the people of Murrurundi and the Upper Hunter of the highest environmental standards and performance as the bulk sample is taken.

David Foster said the company had already employed five local people who had been working to prepare the site facilities and construct drainage and sediment control structures. At least another three will be employed when the Department of Mineral Resources approves the operations plan.

The Community Consultative Committee will make comments and recommendations on the performance of the bulk sample process and environmental monitoring, as well as monitoring compliance with conditions of consent.

The closing date for nominations for the Committee is Friday 28 May.

More information?

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