

# **Bickham Coal Company      Media Release**

*16 June 2004*

## **Bickham Community Consultative Committee Appointed**

Chairman of the Bickham Community Consultative Committee, Warren Cook, has announced details of the appointment of five community members to the committee.

The Community Consultative Committee, formed as part of the approval conditions for the extraction of the bulk coal sample, is the voice of the community in addressing operational and environmental issues. The committee also has representatives of State and local government as well as the Bickham Coal Company.

Mr Cook said he was pleased with the community response when nominations for the committee were called and he thought that those appointed would bring a wide range of opinion and experience to the committee's deliberations.

The members are:

- Nat Doonan, former Mayor and Councillor of Murrurundi Shire
- Neville Moxon, Murrurundi newsagent
- Jocelyn Roberts, Murrurundi resident and former school teacher
- Lloyd Rossington, an irrigation farmer and consultant
- Michael Satara, the closest adjoining landholder to the Bickham site.

"The makeup of the committee ensures the people of Murrurundi as well as the surrounding landholders have a good voice and I encourage people to use these members to represent their interests or concerns on the committee," Mr Cook said.

Mr Cook said he had been advised that while site preparation, environmental protection measures and road works had been underway for a few weeks, no large scale extraction activities would commence until after the Community Consultative Committee had its first meeting on site. This was expected to be in the week commencing June 21.

"The conditions imposed on the bulk sample operation were designed to make the operation environmentally responsible and a big part of our committee's role is to see that these conditions are met," he said.

From a local point of view, Mr Cook added, it was pleasing to see that seven people from the immediate area were now employed on site as well as a local contractor.

"It's good to see jobs being created for local residents," Mr Cook said.

***For more information contact Warren Cook on 6545 3308 or Chris Ford at FordComm on 4929 2063.***