

24 June 2004

First Meeting for New Bickham Community Committee

The newly-appointed Bickham Community Consultative Committee had its first meeting yesterday (Wednesday 23 June).

Chairman Warren Cook of Scone said the Committee inspected work on the site of the bulk sample, and agreed on the way forward.

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.

As well as five representatives of the local community the Committee includes representatives of state and local government and the Bickham Coal Company.

Mr Cook said after the inspection that the group now has a good understanding of the process to be followed for the bulk sample.

"Over the next two months the work will focus on the removal of overburden", Mr Cook said.

A variation to the Conditions of Consent has also been approved to allow the transport of bulk sample coal from Bickham to the Rix's Creek mine near Singleton.

Transport of coal is not likely to begin until the end of August.

The Community Consultative Committee will meet again in a month's time to review progress on the project.

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