



Media Release

Bickham Coal Welcomes Report on Potential for Coal Mining in Upper Hunter

20 December 2005

The proponent of an open-cut mine in the Upper Hunter has welcomed the publication of a strategic assessment of opportunities and constraints for coal mining in the area.

The findings of the assessment were released today by the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Frank Sartor MP.

The study identified two sites – Bickham and Castle Rock – which are suitable for open-cut mining over the next 15 years (subject to further detailed assessment).

John Richards of Bickham Coal said that the company would meet all government requirements as the process of assessment of the proposal moves forward.

"Bickham Coal endorses the report's findings that the Pages River, adjacent to the proposed mine site, should be protected from significant impact."

Bickham Coal will undertake a full Water Resource Assessment and prepare a Water Management Plan for the life of the proposed mine prior to submitting its Project Application.

ENDS

***For further information at any time contact Chris Ford at
FordComm on 4929 2063.***