

## Research indicates Bickham to deliver more jobs than expected

Newcastle on Hunter, March 17 2010

# Bickham Sweetener: Update on Jobs

Newcastle Herald, March 17, 2010



## Job prospects for Bickham coal mine better than expected

Australian Mining, March 17, 2010



PHOTO: SCONE ADVOCATE, DECEMBER 3, 2009

## Study Backs Mining Plan

Newcastle Herald, October 22, 2009

## BICKHAM COAL – A RE-CAP OF THE FACTS

## High expectations for employment at new Bickham coal mine

Coal Mining Online March 18, 2010

## Residents Rally For Coal Mine

Scone Advocate, December 3, 2009

- Bickham Coal is an Australian-owned company, backed by respected families with long and proud histories of employment in the Hunter Valley.
- The Hunter Valley Research Foundation (HVRF) has conservatively estimated that the Bickham proposal will add **386 jobs to the Hunter Valley**, including 286 full-time jobs. These would be secure **well paying** jobs, providing genuine training and career progression opportunities.
- Wherever possible, we will employ people locally, particularly people from the Upper Hunter.
- We are struggling to keep up with requests from local job seekers, and ask all those who have shown interest and support to be patient as the planning process continues. A sincere thank you to the many people who have publicly and privately rallied for our cause.
- To have such an opportunity means a lot to many people, given that the Upper Hunter Valley population has decreased significantly since 1996, and that some townships are struggling to remain viable.
- The project would pump revenue of **\$150 million per year** into the economy, or **\$3.7 billion** over the 25 year mine life.
- Our proposed mine site is situated on remote land, much of which has been previously disturbed by earlier flint clay mining. It is adjacent to the New England Highway and the Northern Rail line, meaning coal could be loaded directly onto trains and carried to Newcastle Port.
- The nearest towns and major horse studs are kilometres away.
- We were asked by the New South Wales Government to complete an exhaustive water study into the proposal, and have delivered

one of the most comprehensive mining water studies ever undertaken in Australia, compiled by some of the best water experts in the land. We believe the facts show very conclusively that any impacts on waterways will be absolutely negligible – and that's being conservative.

- We have undertaken exhaustive, honest and transparent community consultations on numerous occasions over the years.
- As a gesture of goodwill, we reduced the mine size by 25 percent and shifted the mine boundaries further away from the waterways to put perceptions of impacts beyond doubt. This means there will be no below-river mining anywhere within 300 metres of the Pages River. Let's not forget there is an old underground coal mine shaft on the site, located only 30 metres from the Pages River. Have there ever been water connectivity problems in the 80 years that it has been there? No.
- The proposal is now being considered by an independent and impartial Government-appointed panel of water experts, who will make recommendations to the NSW Planning Minister.
- The Planning Minister will soon decide if the project should be abandoned or move to full merit-based assessment like all other mining projects. We have no concerns over our proposal being subjected to more rigorous scrutiny, and neither should anyone else.
- It is plain wrong for any individual or organisation to try and lock such significant opportunities out of any particular area without having arguments based on fact.
- The coal and horse industries co-exist in the lower and mid Hunter Valley, and it's unreasonable to suggest that this can't happen in the Upper Hunter Valley.
- We have spent 10 million dollars over an eight year period working towards this significant economic opportunity for the Upper Hunter, and we are hopeful that the proposal will move to full merit based assessment shortly.
- We extend a sincere thank you to the Planning Assessment Commission Panel which held public hearings in Scone last week. We are grateful that the Bickham matter is receiving the independent and objective treatment that it deserves.

**It's always important to look at  
and listen to the facts.**

**Bickham Coal Company.**