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MEDIA RELEASE

BICKHAM RESPONDS TO MAJOR PROJECT ASSESSMENT REJECTION

Bickham Coal Company today said it was extremely disappointed that its proposed open cut coal mine would not proceed to full merit-based assessment.

The company has spent 10 million dollars over eight years, with a large portion of that spent following preliminary planning processes.

The 36 million tonne project stood to generate 3.7 billion dollars in revenue and create 387 jobs in a location where jobs are badly needed.

Mr Richards said the company was unable to comment on the Planning Assessment Commissions (PAC) findings, given that it has not yet had an opportunity to review the findings. The independent PAC was appointed by the New South Wales Government last year to consider how the mine might impact on local waterways.

“We are disappointed that the project will not be subjected to full and rigorous assessment,” Mr Richards said.

“We remain of the view that full merit based assessment was the most appropriate course for this project, as it is for all other mining projects.

“However we subsequently accepted the matter being referred to an independent panel for preliminary review.

“Our priority now is to undertake a detailed review of the independent panel’s findings.

“I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the countless people who have shown support for the project and the benefits it could deliver to the Upper Hunter.”

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