



## **Charbon / Ingleenook Community Consultative Committee**

Minutes of the Charbon Colliery & Ingleenook Community Consultative Committee Extraordinary  
Meeting held at Charbon Colliery on 11 December 2018.

### **In attendance**

Margaret MacDonald-Hill Chairperson  
Bob Miller Charbon Coal  
Greg Munday Charbon Coal  
James Marshall Charbon Coal  
Clr Steve Ring Lithgow City Council  
Naida Wills Community Representative  
Neva Lilley Community Representative  
Bob Craze Community Representative  
Alan Jackson Community Representative  
Buzz Sanderson Rylstone District Environment Society

### **1. Meeting Open**

The Chair welcomed members and thanked all for their attendance at this extraordinary meeting of the Charbon / Ingleenook CCC.

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2:05 pm.

### **2. Apologies**

Esme Martens Mid-Western Regional Council Representative & Community Representative  
Greg Brown Charbon Coal  
Jolieske Lips Running Stream Water Users Association & Community Representative  
Mitchell Clapham Community Representative  
Jack Pennell Community Representative

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

Confirmed no new declarations of interest.

### **4. Company Report**

The presentation (attached) outlines Charbon Coal's intention to modify its consent (SSD 08\_0211) to transfer up to 170 mega litres per year (ML/year) of water to Airly pit top using rail transport.

Airly's consent will need to be modified to accept this water. A meeting of the Airly CCC is scheduled for Tuesday 15 January 2019.



Key points of discussion arising from the presentation.

- Submission date for the Modification: Mid February / early March 2019.
- What is the volume of Reedy Creek Dam: approximately 220 mega litres
- Capacity of trains: 1 x locomotive with 15 carriages each holding 26,000 litres is the current proposal. This could be increased with two locomotives.
- Duration of the Modification: For the life of Airly mine. Airly's current consent is to 31/1/2037. Water will only be transferred to Airly when required.
- Ongoing use of the rail line is believed to be a positive for the area in that the line will remain open.
- Concern about moving water from the western catchment to the eastern catchment. Require assurance that the water will not be released into the eastern catchment but is contained within the Airly mine nil discharge pollution control network and used as intended to meet process water needs at Airly.
- Discussion about the reduction to the down stream flow into Cumber Melon Creek and Cudgong River. Flow into Cumber Melon Creek will return to a similar pattern as when Charbon was operating and using water from Reedy Creek Dam for process water. It is understood that there has been little / no flow over the spillway for the last two to three years. Due to the size of the catchment there will be no noted impact to Cudgong River. There will be no impact to groundwater.
- Does Airly require the water to meet its proposed production increase from 1.8mtpa to 3mtpa? Airly requires the water for the life of mine due to water inflows being considerably less than what was originally predicted and due to the prolonged dry periods which have had an adverse impact on water supply at both the surface dam and production bore.

Meeting declared closed at 2.50pm.



**Centennial Coal**



# **Charbon Community Consultative Committee**

11 December 2018

[www.centennialcoal.com.au](http://www.centennialcoal.com.au)

# Overview

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- The presentation relates to proposed modifications at both Charbon Colliery and Airly Mine.
- A presentation will be made to the Airly CCC on 15 January 2019. The elements of the modification will be consistent with both presentations however some aspects of the context may change.



# Project Overview

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- Charbon Coal Pty Limited is proposing a modification to Charbon Colliery's (SSD 08\_0211) consent to transfer up to 170 ML/year of water to Airly pit top using rail transport (Airly's consent will need to be modified to accept this water).



# Background

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- Process water at Airly Mine, used to meet operational requirements, is obtained in priority order from the following onsite water sources:
  - mine inflows.
  - surface pollution control dams comprising the 35 ML Discharge Dam which receives surface run-off and settled water from the 109 ML Dam, 7ML Stockpile Dam, and Train Loadout Dam.
  - Production Bore (Bore Licence Number 10BL603503) licensed to pump water up to 158 ML per annum.



# Background

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- A recent review of the site water balance shows there is currently a deficit in the process water supply because:
  - Dry mine: Airly Mine's water inflows are considerably less than what was originally predicted in the site water balance. This is positive in terms of minimizing the impacts to above seam groundwater sources but has exacerbated Airly's process water deficit.
  - Prolonged dry periods have had an adverse impact on water supply at both the surface dam and production bore (Shoalhaven Seam).



# Options Considered

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- Based on the dry year deficit in process water, it is proposed that up to 170 ML/year of water be sourced from an external site.
- Three options for sourcing and transporting water to the Airly pit top have been assessed and include:
  - transfer of mine water from Angus Place Colliery's underground storage area (900 Panel Area) using road haulage;
  - transfer of water from Charbon Colliery's surface dams using road haulage;
  - transfer of water from Charbon Colliery's surface dams using rail transport.



## Preferred Option

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- Broad Brush Risk Assessment identified that the transfer of water from Charbon to Airly pit top by rail represents the best option for the following reasons.
  - The quality of water from Charbon's onsite storages is similar or better than the water quality within the Airly surface dams, and falls within the relevant site specific guideline values in Airly Creek and the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile pollutant concentration limits on Airly Mine's Environment Protection Licence (EPL) 12374.
  - Using rail transport results in lesser impact on sensitive receptors at both Airly and Charbon pit tops than road haulage of water. It is safer and also has less impact on road infrastructure.



# Water Sources

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- Water is proposed to be supplied from Charbon Colliery to Airly Mine from the following sources, in order of priority:
  - LDP4 Discharge Dam.
  - Reedy Creek Dam.
  - Production bores PB2 and PB3.
- LDP4 is within Reedy Creek Catchment and when discharged water flows into Reedy Creek which then flows into Reedy Creek Dam. If there is insufficient water at LDP4 water will be extracted from Reedy Creek Dam.



# Reedy Creek Catchment

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- Reedy Creek catchment is the northernmost catchment of Charbon Colliery and contains the following site features: CHPP, ROM stockpiles, reject emplacement area (REA), Mine Washery Dam, pit top services area, coal loading infrastructure, rail loop and portions of the Western Open Cut.
- Overflows from the Reedy Creek Dam enter Cumber Melon Creek which drains into the Cudgegong River, then Lake Windamere situated to the north-west of the site.



# Reedy Creek Catchment

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- Reedy Creek Dam was constructed specifically to support Charbon Cement works which no longer exist and has historically been associated with industrial purposes.
- When operating, Reedy Creek Dam was the primary water source that was used to support Charbon Colliery operations (coal production and washery).
- Charbon Colliery utilized on average between 148 and 160 ML/year when operating, with dry years requiring approximately 180 ML/year.



## Downstream Impact

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- Water has not been extracted from Reedy Creek Dam since Charbon ceased operation. Restarting water extraction activities from Reedy Creek Dam will reduce the water volume. This may result in water over the spillway return to the same pattern as when Charbon was operating (intermittent).
- Flow over the spillway will be subject to the intensity and length of rainfall events. Currently there is no flow over the spillway despite there being no mining operations.



## Downstream Impact

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- Because of the size of contributing catchments, water flow into Cumber Melon Creek will be reduced within the upper reaches but there will be no adverse impact to the Cudgegong River.
- There will be no impact to downstream ground water users.
- Water from the LDP4 basin will be prioritised. Reedy Creek Dam will only be utilised when there is insufficient or unsuitable water in the LDP4 basin.



# Charbon Impacts

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- Water requirements for the site (i.e. for rehabilitation) will be catered for through on-site Dams - LDP002 and LDP003. Activities such as rehabilitation will therefore not be compromised.
- Water used from surface and groundwater resources at Charbon will only be to a volume that has been permitted by existing Water Access Licences. No new Water Access Licences are proposed for Charbon.



## Considerations for Airly

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- The water will be used for Airly mining processes of up to 170 ML/year for current mining operations.
- The quality of the water transported from Charbon's onsite storages is similar or better than the water quality within the Airly surface dams,
- Water sourced from Charbon (LDP4 and Reedy Creek Dam) will be raw water which has originated from catchment runoff and has flowed through a proportion of the site.



## Considerations for Airly

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- The water is not to be used for a washery which is approved in the consent.
- Water transferred from Charbon to Airly will be managed via a train unloading system that ultimately results in water being stored within Airly's nil discharge pollution control network.
- Train movements will not exceed the current approved train rates (maximum of 5 trains per day and there is a current average of two trains per day).



## Overall Benefits

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- The modification is intended to create a beneficial re-use of water that would otherwise be discharged from LDP4 at Charbon. Additionally, this process also helps to mitigate Airly's need to increase its harvestable water allocation from local surface and groundwater sources.

