

# Ashton Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for 2020.

## Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Ashton Coal Mine	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January - December 2020
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Phillip Brown</b>

### 1. Executive Summary

The Ashton Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee was established as part of a condition of consent by the Minister for Planning's October 2002 approval of Development Application 309/01 for an open cut coal mine, an underground coal mine and associated surface facilities, known as the Ashton Coal Project. The project is situated approximately fourteen kilometres north west of the town of Singleton in the Local Government Area of Singleton Shire and produces coal for the export market through the Port of Newcastle.

The Committee operates in accordance with the 2019 version of the Department of Planning and Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Meetings are held three times per year and the committee is comprised of:

- three local community representatives;
- one elected Singleton Shire Council representative;
- two Ashton Coal Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

The representation on the committee remains unchanged from previous years. As previously stated, the long term participation, knowledge and rapport between all the members delivers an effective committee, who engage with each other beyond scheduled meetings. Logged complaints are minimal. Being a small committee, attendance levels were not impacted by Covid-19 restrictions during the reporting year and were consistent with prior years. Agenda items and comprehensive reports are provided by Ashton Coal personnel in advance of committee meetings.

Matters discussed during the reporting period followed similar topics of previous years; company reports and activities, the Camberwell cottages, weed control management, drought conditions, dust impacts and elevated monitoring results from bushfires and dry weather conditions, TEOM outage caused by an air conditioner failure, rehabilitation progress and post mining land use to a mixed use woodland, leasing of Yancoal managed properties, Bowmans Creek diversion.

Other topics of discussion included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including heritage, air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- operations and environmental activities updates, including incident reports
- explanation of calculation of total recordable injuries at site

- Government agencies inspections and reviews
- Independent Environmental Report
- community complaints
- broader community engagement and Yancoal Community Support Program
- Yancoal land management including weeds, pest and feral animal control.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held in the months of February, June and October 2020.
- The proposed tour of Bowman's Creek was postponed to 2021 when it was expected to be flowing
- There were no joint meetings held with other CCC's.

## 3. Key issues

The longevity and enduring residency of the community and Council members makes for an efficient and well informed group who interact well with Ashton personnel. There are no apparent major areas of concern to the members that I am aware of. Ashton personnel remain responsive to matters raised by all members.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Kangaroo culling and feral animal baiting control</b>	Request by committee that prior notice be given to CCC members.	Advance notice given to committee, along with existing public notification advertisements. Ongoing as required.
<b>Camberwell cottages and land held by company</b>	Information on properties status provided to the committee.	Ongoing to each meeting.
<b>Weed management</b>	Additional species added to list weed management program.	Included in 2021 weed management program.


#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions and interests of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- site inspection of the Bowman's Creek Diversion when flowing
- interest in weed control and land management
- review of ongoing environmental monitoring
- operational activities
- Yancoal community support program.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	March 9 2021