

Abel Community Consultative Committee (CCC) –2024 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Abel Coal Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 – December 31 2024
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Phillip Brown, Environment and Community Relations Superintendent

1. Executive summary / introduction

The Abel Community Consultative Committee was established in 2007 as a condition of consent to the Minister for Planning’s approval of the Abel underground coal mine. The mine is located approximately twenty three kilometres north west of Newcastle and bounded roughly to the south by John Renshaw Drive and George Booth Drive, west of Buttai Creek and east of the M1 Expressway. The project is mainly within the Cessnock Council Local Government Area with a very small section in the Maitland Council Local Government Area. The Yancoal Abel mine has approval to use the adjoining Bloomfield Coal Handling Preparation Plant. As the mine has been on care and maintenance since May 2016, no mining has occurred and most site personnel have relocated to offices in Newcastle and other Yancoal sites.

The Committee is comprised of:

- Four local community representatives;
- A representative from Bloomfield Colliery;
- Three Yancoal representatives, with attendance from other personal as required;
- An independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

In view of little activity at the site, the Committee has only met annually since 2021, although committee members continue to show their interest with their attendance and are keen to know future plans for the overall area.

The committee met in September 2024 and was briefed on the site’s care and maintenance activities and water management, the progress of the Kurri Kurri – Seaham Lateral Gas Pipeline Project across the Abel/Donaldson site and surrounding land, routine environmental monitoring, no complaints received for 2024, rehabilitation objectives, including an assessment of the status of rehabilitated historical bore holes, illegal access and theft of electric cable to the site and adjoining properties.

The Committee meets on the Abel site. No formal site visits were undertaken during 2024. Members confirmed the currency of the Terms of Reference at the September meeting as required by the department.

The Committee has been going for nearly two decades with the same community representation. All enjoy a good rapport with Abel personnel

3. Key issues

With the mine being on care and maintenance, there are no major issues.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- The planned activities for the Committee remain similar to previous years; continued reporting on monitoring and environmental performance, any community complaints and responses, management plans, mine closure and future development.
- Currently, there are no known outstanding or emerging issues. However, it is reasonable to expect these will be addressed when and if they occur.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 18 2025.