

Abel Community Consultative Committee (CCC) –2025 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Abel Coal Mine	Reporting period:	January 1 – December 31 2025
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. 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. At the December meeting, the committee was advised of Bloomfield's acquisition of the Abel and Donaldson Mines.

The Committee is currently 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:

The Committee meets at the Abel site administration building. No formal site visits have been undertaken in recent years as there has been little activity at the site and the committee has continued with an annual meeting schedule since 2021.

At the December meeting, the committee was briefed on the site's routine matters such as care and maintenance activities and water management, including annual rainfall, the triennial Independent Audit, the discontinuance of the site as a storage hub for the Kurri Kurri – Seaham Lateral Gas Pipeline Project, routine environmental monitoring and review, another year without any complaints or environmental incidents, rehabilitated historical bore holes, feral animal control and illegal access.

A very strong rapport exists among all members and the coordination by the long-term Environment and Community Relations Superintendent is clearly evident and appreciated, with the committee first established almost two decades ago and the retention of original members.

3. Key issues

There are no existing issues for this committee. All matters have been dealt with expeditiously over the years. Other than the future discussion of the new owners' upcoming plans for the site, there are no known emerging issues.

4. Focus for next 12 months:

Reporting, planned activities and meeting schedule for the committee may change under the new owners, although it is reasonable to expect the format and style will remain similar to that of previous years, in accordance with the Department's 2023 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects under which it operates.

At this last meeting of the Yancoal Abel Committee and the announcement of the imminent transfer of ownership to Bloomfield, all community members expressed their ongoing interest and the intention to continue, as one under the Bloomfield administration and a new Chairperson, as the Bloomfield Abel committee. The new chairperson will discuss and confirm the Terms of Reference reflecting changes to membership at a future meeting as required by the department.

5. Conclusion

Having chaired this committee for a decade, once again it has been my pleasure to work with a group of people with broad networks and strong interest in their local community, past, present and future. This is the intent of these committees and a good example of what can be achieved through thorough and early community engagement with mining personnel.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	December 3 2025.