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MEDIA RELEASE

BICKHAM COAL CONSIDERS UNDERGROUND MINING

Bickham Coal Company is taking advice from underground mining specialists to ascertain if underground mining is feasible for its Upper Hunter site where it had previously proposed an open-cut mine.

The company said preliminary drilling would take place on the Blandford site in the near future to gauge if coal deposits could be accessed using the latest underground mining technology.

Bickham said it was following this process to meet obligations under its current mining Exploration Licence, which allows for consideration of underground mining.

Whilst Bickham had previously been of the view that underground mining was not feasible for the site, the drilling and other feasibility processes would enable the company to make informed decisions as to whether such mining could be pursued.

“If the best and latest advice indicates that underground mining is feasible, we will pursue it,” Bickham Director John Richards said.

“We are informing the community of this at the earliest opportunity, ahead of on-site drilling commencing.

“Because we are talking about an underground mine, the project area needs to be investigated from a different viewpoint.

“Bickham is owned by local families with long histories in the Hunter Valley, and will continue its desire to bring a significant economic opportunity to the Upper Hunter.”

Bickham spent over ten years following prescribed planning processes for its former open-cut mine proposal, which included producing a series of requested studies and reports. However, the open-cut proposal was rejected by the Keneally Government without being subjected to major project merit-based assessment.

Further information:

Matthew Watson

Repute Communications & Associates

9220 3553 / 0417 691 884