



**BULLI SEAM OPERATIONS**

**SECTION 3**  
**CONSULTATION AND**  
**COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

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### 3 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

ICHPL is committed to continue open and constructive dialogue with the local community and stakeholders. This section describes the consultation undertaken during the preparation of this EA and the ongoing community initiatives and consultation programs ICHPL has established in the Southern Coalfield.

#### 3.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

##### 3.1.1 Objectives

The level of consultation undertaken during the preparation of this EA is considered to be in accordance with the EARs (Attachment 1) and is adequate and appropriate for a Major Project under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. Consultation conducted during the preparation of this EA has provided the opportunity to identify issues of concern or interest to stakeholders and to consider these issues in this EA.

A synopsis of the relevant issues raised by stakeholders during the preparation of this EA is provided below, including a reference to the relevant section of this EA.

##### 3.1.2 State Government Agencies

Consultation with key NSW State Government agencies in relation to the Project commenced prior to submission of the Project Application in December 2007. ICHPL continues to consult with relevant State Government agencies on a regular basis in relation to its current mining operations in the Southern Coalfield and the Project.

###### **Department of Planning (DoP)**

The Project Application was lodged with the DoP in December 2007 and the EARs were issued by the Director-General of the DoP on 19 August 2008.

The DoP established a Project Executive Working Group (EWG) in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2008 to provide an avenue for executive level consultation with key State Government agencies (e.g. DoP, DECC, DPI-MR, SCA and DWE). Further details of the EWG representatives and meetings are provided below.

ICHPL also consulted separately with the DoP in relation to planning matters associated with the Sydney South West Strategy and Macarthur South Discussion Paper. Further details are provided in Section 7.2.8.

###### **Heritage Branch and Heritage Council**

In March 2006, the former NSW Government Heritage Office was integrated as a division of the DoP. Consultation was undertaken with the Heritage Branch representatives within the DoP in July 2009, with respect to management of non-Aboriginal heritage items in the vicinity of the Project.

It is anticipated the Heritage Branch will provide additional formal feedback on the Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (Appendix H) following public exhibition of the EA.

###### **Project Executive Working Group (EWG)**

The Project EWG comprises the following key State Government agencies and representatives:

- DoP – David Kitto (*Director – Major Development Assessment*) (chair)/ Howard Reed (*Principal Advisor – Mining and Extractive Industries*)/Nicholas Hall (*Senior Planner – Industry and Mining Major Project Assessment*);
- DECC – William Dove (*Acting Manager Metropolitan*)/Jacqueline Hyne (*Acting Head Regional Operations – Illawarra Region*);
- DPI-MR – Garth Holmes (*Director, Development Coordination – now retired*)/ Elise Newberry (*Director, Mineral Resources Division – Environmental Sustainability*)/ William Hughes (*Senior Advisor – Mineral Resources*);
- SCA – George Dodds (*General Manager of Catchment Operations and Major Projects*)/Malcolm Hughes (*Acting Manager – Statutory Planning*); and
- DWE – Mark Mignanelli (*Manager – Major Projects, Mining Assessments and Planning Branch*)/Fergus Hancock (*Assessment Officer – Major Projects, Mines Assessments and Planning Branch*).

Other representatives of these agencies attended particular meetings as required. Representatives of ICHPL also attended the Project EWG meetings including John Brannon (*General Manager – Sustainable Development*) and Gary Brassington (*Bulli Seam Operations – Project Manager*).

The DoP convened Project EWG meetings on the following dates:

- 17 March 2008;
- 30 April 2008;
- 25 June 2008;
- 20 August 2008;
- 26 November 2008;
- 20 March 2009; and
- 30 April 2009.

On some occasions the Project EWG meetings were attended by ICHPL's specialist consultants, who made presentations on relevant matters.

The Project EWG meetings/presentations were used to familiarise the relevant key State Government agency managers with the Project and to inform the Project planning, design and environmental assessment process. Discussions in the EWG meetings considered a broad range of issues, including but not limited to the following:

- Director-General's EARs for the Project (Section 1.2);
- use of an indicative mine plan and subsidence assessment approach (Section 2 and Appendix A);
- links between subsidence predictions and resulting environmental effects (Section 5.4);
- systematic and non-systematic subsidence effects (Section 2.5.2 and Appendix A);
- fundamental mining parameters (e.g. longwall width) and related subsidence predictions (Section 2 and Appendix A);
- confidence/degree of certainty of subsidence predictions (Appendix A);
- baseline studies data collation and progressive analysis (Section 5);
- West Cliff Stage 4 Coal Wash Emplacement design (Section 2.8.3);
- alternative/beneficial use of coal wash (Section 2.8);
- approach used for the Aboriginal heritage survey (Section 5.10);
- hydrological and hydrogeological data sharing (Sections 5.5 and 5.6 and Appendices B and C);
- consideration of Sydney Gas projects (Section 3.1.5);

- separate Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999* (EPBC Act) approval requirements and Commonwealth-owned lands (Section 7);
- establishment of the Community Reference Group (CRG) and meeting outcomes (Section 3.1.6);
- existing Mine Closure Plans for the Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery (Section 6);
- integration of specialist studies included in the EA (Section 5);
- interaction of the Project and the Sydney South West Strategy (Section 7.2.8);
- rehabilitation of the Bulli shaft sites (Section 6);
- separate assessment and approvals for the Endeavour Project (Section 2.5.3);
- number of longwall operations and continued use of EDL power stations (Section 2);
- North Cliff shafts care and maintenance activities (Section 2);
- application of stream impact minimisation criteria and associated decision-making processes (Sections 2.5.2 and 5.2.1); and
- characterisation of headwater and in-valley fill upland swamps (Section 5.2.2).

In addition to the EWG meetings, a range of State Government agencies were consulted with respect to the assessment of the Project. A summary of other consultation undertaken with State Government agencies is presented below.

#### ***Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC)***

Prior to lodging the Project Application and commencement of the EWG meetings, an initial meeting was held with DECC representatives on 11 December 2007.

Representatives of DECC also attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

Separate meetings and communications were conducted with DECC during the preparation of the EA. This included discussion of a range of matters (e.g. sharing of technical information, impact assessment approach) to improve ICHPL's understanding of DECC's expectations for the EA. Specific meetings were held on the following dates:

- 2 June 2008 (DECC's National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS]) - agreement of land access requirements for EA baseline studies;
- 9 April 2009 (process for applying stream impact minimisation criteria);
- 28 May 2009 (swamp monitoring data used for the EA); and
- 19 June 2009 (assessment approach for upland swamps and streams).

DECC also attended a site visit arranged by ICHPL at the Dendrobium Swamps 11, 15 and Swamp 1 on 30 June 2009, to discuss the EA and more specifically the upland swamp risk assessment approach.

Key issues raised by DECC at the meetings were generally consistent with those issues documented in the DECC's submission to the Southern Coalfield Inquiry (DECC, 2007a).

Consultation undertaken with DECC during the preparation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment is summarised in Appendix G.

In addition to the above, a Project briefing meeting was held with the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of DECC on 28 April 2009. A subsequent meeting was also held with the Director-General of the DECC on 13 July 2009 and Wollongong Regional DECC Manager on 24 August 2009.

#### **Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources (DPI-MR)**

ICHPL first presented the Conceptual Project Development Plan to the DPI-MR on 12 November 2007, prior to lodging the Project Application with the DoP.

In addition to participation in the Project EWG meetings, the DPI-MR continued to co-ordinate the Subsidence Management Plan Interagency Committee (refer below) during the preparation of the EA.

Consultation was also undertaken with the DPI-MR in relation to confirmation of existing mining, petroleum and exploration tenements in the region.

The DPI-MR also attended a site inspection of the Bulli No.4 Shaft on 23 June 2009 in relation to ongoing rehabilitation of the site.

#### **Department of Water and Energy (DWE)**

In addition to the DWE's role on the Project EWG, a separate meeting was held at the DWE offices on 27 February 2009. The meeting was attended by ICHPL and surface water and groundwater specialists (i.e. Mr Lindsay Gilbert and Dr Noel Merrick) to discuss the monitoring programs and assessments undertaken as part of the EA.

ICHPL also consulted separately with the DWE in relation to potential issues associated with embargo areas in the Southern Coalfield. Further details are provided in Section 5.5.

The DWE indicated that the Project would be assessed against the relevant objects of the *Water Management Act, 2000* and would need to consider the requirements for licensing of water extractions, once the finalised EA was received.

#### **Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA)**

In addition to the SCA's role on the Project EWG, a separate meeting was held at the SCA offices on 16 December 2008. The meeting was attended by SCA technical representatives, ICHPL and the Project surface water and groundwater specialists (Mr Lindsay Gilbert and Dr Noel Merrick) to discuss the monitoring programs and assessments undertaken as part of the EA.

Representatives of the SCA also attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

On 19 June 2009, ICHPL met with the SCA to discuss the assessment approach for streams and swamps. During the meeting the SCA also requested that specific consultation be conducted with other staff within the SCA in relation to the Upper Canal and the Nepean Tunnel. Subsequently, a meeting was held on 1 July 2009 to discuss the proposed extent of longwall mining area in relation to the infrastructure managed by the SCA.

In relation to the application of stream impact minimisation criteria, the SCA raised the following issues:

- cumulative effects need to be considered in the EA for Wallandoola Creek; and
- the 200 mm closure target should be applied for the Woronora River.

Other key issues raised by the SCA at the meetings were generally consistent with those issues documented in the SCA's submission to the Southern Coalfield Inquiry (SCA, 2007a).

In addition to the consultation described above, the SCA attended a site inspection of the Bulli No.4 Shaft on 23 June 2009 in relation to ongoing rehabilitation of the site.

A meeting was held with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the SCA on 14 July 2009, which included discussions in relation to the Project.

#### ***Dams Safety Committee (DSC)***

On 3 November 2008, ICHPL met with the DSC to provide a presentation on the Project and obtain preliminary feedback on the proposed extent of longwall mining areas in the vicinity of Prescribed Dams and associated Notification Areas (e.g. Cataract Dam, Broughtons Pass Weir and Brennans Creek Dam) and the future assessment/approvals process.

The DSC provided a letter dated 27 February 2009 confirming the Prescribed Dams and associated Notification Areas and noted the existence of Maldon Weir and Pheasants Nest Weir which may become Prescribed Dams in the future.

The DSC also indicated the potential for future changes to the size of the Notification Area around Cataract Dam (due to far-field horizontal movement) and potentially adopting a more conservative approach with respect to mining proximal to Broughtons Pass Weir.

#### ***Mine Subsidence Board (MSB)***

A representative of the MSB attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008. A presentation was made during the day specifically in relation to the Project and the assessment/approvals process.

Consultation was undertaken with the MSB during the preparation of the EA in relation to the use and provision of MSB leaflets to distribute to landholders (Section 3.1.6 and Attachment 4). A meeting was also held with the MSB District Manager on 21 August 2009.

The MSB is also represented on the Subsidence Management Plan Interagency Committee (see below).

#### ***Subsidence Management Plan Interagency Committee***

SMPs are currently reviewed through a whole-of-government approach by the Subsidence Management Plan Interagency Committee. The committee includes representatives from each of the following State Government agencies:

- DoP;
- DECC;
- DPI-MR;
- DWE;
- SCA;
- DSC; and
- MSB.

Consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the EA with the Subsidence Management Plan Interagency Committee in relation to the SMP application pending approval for Longwalls 705 to 710 at Appin Area 7 and for the approved Longwalls 34 to 36 at West Cliff Area 5.

#### ***Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA)***

ICHPL met with the RTA on 9 July 2008 to present a description of the Project and confirm the existing RTA infrastructure (e.g. roads) located within the extent of longwall mining area. Further information is provided in Appendix A (Subsidence Assessment). A subsequent letter from ICHPL describing the Project assessment and approvals process was provided to the RTA on 22 July 2008.

ICHPL continues to consult with the RTA on a regular basis in accordance with an agreed governance structure and Deed of Agreement, in relation to roads and infrastructure managed by the RTA in the vicinity of the current operations.

#### ***Department of Lands***

On 3 June 2009, ICHPL met with the Department of Lands to provide an overview of the Project and discuss the Department of Land's administrative role. A follow-up letter was sent to the Department on 5 June 2009 to confirm the meeting discussion and ICHPL's intentions to continue to liaise in relation to the current infrastructure assets and planning for future management of infrastructure. No issues or requests for additional information in relation to the Project were raised by the Department of Lands.

The Department of Lands was also contacted on several occasions during the preparation of the EA, primarily with respect to property searches (e.g. crown land) within the Project Application Area and provision of baseline information (e.g. survey marks).

### 3.1.3 Local Government Agencies

#### ***Wollondilly Shire Council***

Prior to lodging the Project Application, ICHPL made an initial presentation to the Mayor, General Manager and key staff at the Wollondilly Shire Council on 5 December 2007. A copy of the Project Description Report and Preliminary Assessment in support of the Project Application was provided for display at the Wollondilly Shire Council office.

Following the initial meeting, ICHPL made a presentation at the council meeting held on 31 March 2008.

Key issues that were discussed at the meetings included:

- clarification of existing mining leases and exploration leases;
- potential interaction with the Sydney Gas leases;
- consideration of Project interaction with Bingara Gorge Residential Development (i.e. Wilton Park) and EDL power stations;
- consideration of use of the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Line as an alternative to road transport of product coal;
- consultation with the Wollondilly Shire Council Aboriginal Liaison Committee as part of the Aboriginal cultural assessments; and
- importance of community engagement during the assessment/approval process.

As the Project is largely located within the Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA), consultation with the Wollondilly Shire Council has also been undertaken during the preparation of the EA, particularly in relation to the following studies:

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix G);
- Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment (Appendix H); and
- Road Transport Assessment (Appendix K).

A representative of the Wollondilly Shire Council also attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

A follow-up presentation was made to the Wollondilly Shire Council on 24 November 2008 to specifically provide an update on progress of the EA preparation for the Project.

As requested, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix G) was provided to the Wollondilly Shire Council for review.

Wollondilly Shire Council is also a member of the Association of Mining Related Councils (see below).

#### ***Campbelltown City Council***

Prior to lodging the Project Application, ICHPL made an initial presentation to the General Manager and key staff at the Campbelltown City Council on 10 December 2007. A copy of the Project Description Report and Preliminary Assessment in support of the Project Application was provided for display at the Campbelltown City Council office.

Following the initial meeting, ICHPL made a presentation at the council meeting held on 29 January 2008.

Key issues that were discussed at the meetings included:

- management of licensed releases from Brennans Creek Dam to the Georges River;
- concerns relating to employment impacts if the Project was not approved;
- local sponsorships within the Campbelltown City Council LGA;
- application of longwall standoffs/setbacks from rivers;
- longwall widths and influence on subsidence parameters/predictions and related environmental effects;
- previous longwall mining impacts in the Southern Coalfield; and
- consideration of use of the Maldon-Dombarton Rail Line as an alternative to road transport of product coal.

Representatives of the Campbelltown City Council attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008. A presentation was made during the day specifically in relation to the Project and the assessment/approvals process.

Follow-up presentations were made to the Campbelltown City Council on 25 November 2008 and in September 2009 to provide an update on progress of the EA preparation for the Project.

As requested, a copy of the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix G) was provided to the Campbelltown City Council for review.

Campbelltown City Council is also a member of the Association of Mining Related Councils (see below).

### ***Wollongong City Council***

Prior to lodging the Project Application, ICHPL met with the General Manager of the Wollongong City Council on 12 December 2007. ICHPL provided Project related documentation (i.e. Project description, environmental approval process and stakeholder engagement) to the Wollongong City Council. A copy of the Project Description Report and Preliminary Assessment in support of the Project Application was provided for display at the Wollongong City Council office.

A representative of the Wollongong City Council also attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

ICHPL wrote to the Wollongong City Council on 16 March 2009 and 31 March 2009 in relation to ICHPL's concerns regarding the permissibility of mining under the draft *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009* with specific reference to the Project. In response, letters were received on 8 April 2009 and 16 April 2009 from the Wollongong City Council to inform ICHPL the letter had been forwarded to the Land Use Planning Manager for consideration as a submission to the draft *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009* and that the Director-General of the DoP had been informed of ICHPL's and other mining companies concerns.

In addition to the above, the Wollongong City Council attended a site inspection of the Bulli No.4 Shaft on 23 June 2009 in relation to ongoing rehabilitation of the site.

Wollongong City Council is also member of the Association of Mining Related Councils (see below).

### ***Camden Council***

A small portion of ICHPL's existing exploration tenements to the north-west of the Project are located within the Camden LGA. The Project extent of longwall mining area, coal haulage routes and pit top surface facilities are all located outside of the Camden LGA.

A meeting was held with the Mayor and General Manager of Camden Council in September 2009. ICHPL provided Project related documentation (i.e. Project description, environmental approval process and stakeholder engagement) to the Camden Council.

Camden Council is also a member of the Association of Mining Related Councils (see below).

### ***Association of Mining Related Councils***

The Association of Mining Related Councils consists of a number of member councils including the local councils discussed above. Project information was provided to the Association of Mining Related Councils in April 2009 including the Project Application and Preliminary Assessment Report.

## **3.1.4 Federal Government Agencies**

### ***Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts (DEWHA)***

ICHPL will make a referral to the DEWHA under the EPBC Act separately to this EA.

### ***Department of Defence***

The Holsworthy Military Reserve is located in the far north of the North Cliff domain (Figure 2-9) and was historically the principal training camp in NSW for World War I troops.

After World War II, the Holsworthy Military Reserve was expanded to become the principal live firing training area for the Sydney region (Department of Defence, 2005). The Department of Defence currently occupies and manages the Holsworthy Military Reserve.

A presentation was made to the Department of Defence on 11 August 2008 to provide background to ICHPL's existing operations and describe the Project and future assessment/approvals process.



The Department of Defence provided environmental studies/assessments that had been conducted in the past which have been reviewed and utilised as part of studies undertaken in this EA, where relevant. The Department of Defence was also consulted in relation to land access requirements for surveys undertaken as part of the studies provided in this EA.

### **Department of Finance and Deregulation**

ICHPL will consult with the Department of Finance and Deregulation separately to this EA with respect to the Commonwealth Mining Lease in the Holsworthy Military Reserve.

### **3.1.5 Infrastructure Owners/Service Providers**

There are a range of infrastructure items in the vicinity of the Project that could be potentially affected by mine subsidence (Appendix A). ICHPL has established dialogue with numerous infrastructure owners and service providers within the historic and current mining areas at the Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery. Separate to the regular meetings and forums held with infrastructure owners as part of the existing operations, ICHPL has consulted with the following to provide an overview of the Project and discuss any future potential issues or concerns.

A number of infrastructure owners were also consulted with during the preparation of the EA to obtain spatial and engineering data for determination of subsidence predictions (Appendix A).

#### **AGL Energy/Sydney Gas**

AGL Energy/Sydney Gas holds a number of Petroleum Production Titles overlapping with the northern and north-western boundaries of ICHPL's existing mining leases.

ICHPL and AGL/Sydney Gas have had a number of discussions focussing on developing areas of mutual interest and co-operation. These discussions are at an early stage and are continuing.

A submission was provided by ICHPL to the DoP in response to the public exhibition of the EA for AGL Energy's proposed Leafs Gully Power Project located in West Cliff Area 5 (Figure 2-8)<sup>1</sup>.

In addition, ICHPL met with AGL to discuss the Project and the Leafs Gully Power Project on 19 September 2008.

#### **Alinta AGN and EGP (now Jemena Gas Networks)**

Jemena Gas Networks (Jemena) owns and operates the AGN pipeline (which forms part of the Sydney Region Trunk Distribution System) and the Eastern Gas Pipeline (EGP). The gas pipelines and associated infrastructure cross the Appin Area 7, West Cliff Area 5, and Appin Area 3 Extended mining domains.

ICHPL has consulted regularly with Alinta AGN and EGP (and more recently Jemena) as part of the existing Engineering Forum. Representatives of Alinta also attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

A specific meeting to cover aspects of the Project was held on 30 June 2008 with Alinta AGN and EGP.

A letter was received from Jemena on 12 June 2009 in relation to the Project and its interaction with the AGN pipeline between Wilton and Horsley Park (known as the Southern Trunk pipeline) including the prevention, minimisation and mitigation/repair of potential damage caused by subsidence. ICHPL will continue to liaise with Jemena in this regard during the life of the Project.

#### **Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC)**

The ARTC manages the Main Southern Railway located within Appin Area 7, Appin West (Area 9) and Appin Area 8.

A representative of the ARTC attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

ICHPL continues to consult on a regular basis with ARTC in relation to the Main Southern Railway. ICHPL wrote to ARTC on 2 June 2009 to provide some background to the Project.

#### **Gorodok (Orica)**

Gorodok (Orica) owns and operates an ethane pipeline which crosses the Appin Area 7, West Cliff Area 5, and Appin Area 3 Extended mining domains.

<sup>1</sup> The Leafs Gully Gas-Fired Power Station was approved by the NSW Minister for Planning on 11 August 2009 (Project Approval 08\_0077).

ICHPL consult regularly with Gorodok (Orica) as part of the existing Engineering Forum. A specific meeting in relation to the Project was held on 30 June 2008. ICHPL wrote to Gorodok providing background information.

A representative of Gorodok attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

#### **Integral Energy**

Integral Energy owns and maintains a number of 66 kV, 11 kV and low voltage aerial powerlines within the extent of longwall mining area.

A representative of Integral Energy attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

ICHPL continues to consult on an as needs basis with Integral Energy as part of the existing operations. ICHPL wrote to Integral Energy on 2 June 2009 to provide some background to the Project.

#### **Maldon Cement Works**

The Maldon Cement Works is located at the western extent of longwall mining area in Appin Area 8 (Figure 2-10).

ICHPL met with representatives of the Maldon Cement Works on 24 July 2008 to provide some background to the Project, proposed future mining areas and the assessment/approvals process being undertaken. ICHPL wrote to Maldon Cement Works on 29 December 2008 providing background information.

ICHPL also consulted with Maldon Cement Works in relation to land access requirements for surveys undertaken as part of the studies provided in this EA.

#### **Maldon (Allied) Flour Mill**

The Maldon (Allied) Flour Mill is located at the western extent of longwall mining area in Appin Area 8 (Figure 2-10).

A meeting was held on 14 July 2008 with representatives of the Maldon (Allied) Flour Mill, and subsequent letter provided on 15 July 2008, describing the Project and the future assessment/approvals process.

ICHPL also consulted with Maldon (Allied) Flour Mill in relation to land access requirements for surveys undertaken as part of the studies provided in this EA.

#### **Nextgen**

Nextgen owns a network of optical fibre cables across the Appin Area 7, Appin West (Area 9) and Appin Area 8 mining domains.

A representative of the Nextgen attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

ICHPL continues to consult on a regular basis with Nextgen as part of the existing operations. ICHPL wrote to Nextgen on 2 June 2009 to provide some background to the Project.

#### **Optus**

Optus owns a network of optical fibre cables across the Appin Area 7, Appin West (Area 9) and Appin Area 8 mining domains.

Representatives of Optus attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project.

ICHPL continues to consult on a regular basis with Optus as part of the existing operations. ICHPL wrote to Optus on 2 June 2009 and met with Optus on 22 July 2009 to provide some background to the Project and to confirm the location of existing infrastructure.

#### **Picton Aerodrome/Sydney Skydivers**

The Sydney Skydivers Centre is located at the Picton Aerodrome on Picton Road near the Hume Highway Interchange within Appin Area 8.

Consultation with representatives of Picton Aerodrome and the Sydney Skydivers Centre was initiated during the preparation of the EA. ICHPL provided Project background information to these parties on 2 June 2009.

#### **Powertel**

Powertel owns a network of optical fibre cables across the Appin Area 7, Appin West (Area 9) and Appin Area 8 mining domains.

ICHPL continues to consult on an as needs basis with Powertel as part of the existing operations. ICHPL wrote to Powertel on 2 June 2009 to provide some background to the Project and invited input to the assessment process.

A response was received from Powertel on 24 June 2009 indicating if the Project was to impact on the infrastructure network, the same process should be adopted as that developed with ICHPL in the past for Longwalls 701 to 704 in Appin Area 7.

### **Sydney Water**

Sydney water owns and maintains a number of water pipelines within the extent of longwall mining area which supply the townships of Wilton, Menangle, Maldon, Douglas Park and Appin.

ICHPL regularly consults with Sydney Water representatives as part of a Technical Committee for existing mining operations at Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery.

A Project-specific meeting was held on 16 June 2008 and ICHPL subsequently wrote to Sydney Water on 16 July 2008 to describe the Project and confirm the locations of existing infrastructure within the Project area.

Consultation was also undertaken with Sydney Water separately in regard to obtaining historical flow data for O'Hares Creek and Stokes Creek for inclusion in the Surface Water Assessment (Appendix C).

### **Telstra/BigPond**

Telstra owns a network of optical fibre cables across the Appin Area 7, West Cliff Area 5, Appin West (Area 9), Appin Area 8 and Appin Areas 2 and 3 Extended mining domains. The copper telecommunications cable network located within the extent of longwall mining area are also owned and maintained by Telstra.

The Project was first introduced to representatives of Telstra and Bigpond who attended ICHPL's Interagency Consultation Day held on 5 March 2008, which included a specific presentation in relation to the Project assessment process and approvals.

On 23 April 2009, ICHPL met with Telstra representatives to present a description of the Project and confirm the existing Telstra infrastructure (e.g. optical fibre and copper cable networks) located within the extent of longwall mining area. Further information is provided in Appendix A (Subsidence Assessment).

### **Transgrid**

Transgrid owns and maintains a 330 kV transmission line which crosses Appin Area 7, West Cliff Area 5 and Appin Area 3 Extended. A meeting was held with representatives of Transgrid on 1 August 2008 to provide an introduction to the Project. ICHPL continues to consult on a regular basis with Transgrid as part of its existing operations.

### **United Utilities**

United Utilities owns part of the Macarthur Water Supply System which treats and supplies water from the Cataract River at Broughtons Pass, to Campbelltown and surrounding townships, including Wilton and Appin.

A Project-specific meeting was held on 16 June 2008 and ICHPL subsequently wrote to United Utilities on 16 July 2008 to describe the Project and confirm the locations of existing infrastructure within the Project area.

ICHPL continues to consult regularly with United Utilities representatives as part of a Technical Committee for existing mining operations at Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery.

## **3.1.6 Public Consultation**

### **Local Community**

Separate to the existing Appin Area Community Working Group (AACWG) (refer Section 3.2.4), ICHPL formed a specific CRG for the Project in February 2009.

Advertisements were placed in local newspapers in December 2008 and January 2009 calling for expressions of interest for people to join the CRG for the Project. Several applications were received and following the appointment of an independent facilitator, the CRG was officially formed.

The CRG consists of community members from the townships and communities of Appin, Campbelltown, Douglas Park, Menangle, Pheasants Nest, Razorback and Wedderburn.

A work program was developed by the CRG members and ICHPL consisting of several meetings and site visits to provide members of the local community the opportunity to raise issues of concern and be provided with responses and other Project-related information.

CRG meetings were held on the following dates and the relevant topics discussed (with attendance by ICHPL's specialist consultants as required):

- 10 February 2009 – Introduction and the CRG Terms of Reference;
- 18 March 2009 – Baseline Monitoring (Water, Flora and Fauna);
- 15 April 2009 – Subsidence Impacts and Management;
- 27 May 2009 – Surface Water and Groundwater Assessment Findings;
- 17 June 2009 – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment and Socio-Economic Assessment Findings;
- 15 July 2009 – Stage 4 Coal Wash Emplacement; and
- 19 August 2009 – Noise, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas and Traffic Assessment findings and research into coal wash management alternatives.

Questions and issues raised during consultation with the community (e.g. CRG meetings) were discussed in the context of the Project. Discussions were had on a broad range of issues, including but not limited to the following:

- *Potential impact of increased truck movements:* The Project would not significantly alter the proportion of ICHPL contribution to traffic. Notwithstanding, a Transport Management Plan would be implemented and include upgrades to the West Cliff pit top access and a driver's code of conduct (Section 5.15 and Appendix K).
- *Extent and timing of baseline surveys:* The EA incorporates extensive baseline data and best practice prediction methods including detailed assessment of subsidence, surface and groundwater, noise, air quality, heritage, flora and fauna and traffic (Section 5).
- *Consideration of climate variability when reviewing baseline information:* A comprehensive assessment of greenhouse gas emissions from the Project and the implications of predicted climate variability are included in the EA. It was concluded that the effects of climate variability would occur irrespective of the Project (Section 5 and Appendices B to F, I and J).
- *Assessment process if threatened species are identified during surveys:* Comprehensive assessments were conducted for threatened species which followed both State and Commonwealth Guidelines. Comprehensive monitoring and management programmes are proposed for the Project as well as a number of compensatory initiatives (Sections 5.7 to 5.9 and Appendices D to F).
- *Protection of habitat resources for mammals and birds:* Although the Project would avoid or minimise impacts on terrestrial fauna and their habitat, a Biodiversity Management Plan would be implemented for the Project, including monitoring and management and a number of compensatory initiatives (Section 5.9).
- *Post-mining groundwater impacts:* A numerical model developed for the Project would be used as a management tool for the prediction of groundwater impacts throughout the life of the Project. If any impacts to groundwater supply occur from the Project, measures would be implemented to ensure that the landholder continues to have a water supply of at least the same standard prior to the supply being affected by the Project (Section 5.5).
- *Management of public infrastructure across the Project extent of longwall mining area:* Public and private infrastructure has been identified and assessed in relation to potential subsidence impacts in the EA. As a component of future Extraction Plans, in consultation with owners, ICHPL would develop management strategies to maintain infrastructure in a safe and serviceable condition (Section 5.4 and Appendix A).
- *Likelihood of subsidence damage to farm dams:* Farm dams have been identified and assessed in relation to potential subsidence impacts in the EA. If any impacts to farm dams occur from the Project, measures would be implemented to ensure that the landholder continues to have a water supply of at least the same standard prior to the supply being affected by the Project (Section 5.4 and Appendix A).
- *Potential for water loss from streams:* The potential for water loss from streams has been assessed in the EA. Stream impact minimisation criteria have been applied to a number of streams in the Project area. Risk Management Plans would be developed for streams and include monitoring and remediation programmes (Sections 5.2.1 and 5.6 and Appendices C and P).

Other issues raised during consultation with the community included:

- potential for the installation of an underground conveyor from Appin East pit top to West Cliff pit top to avoid/reduce ROM coal truck movements (i.e. Endeavour Project) (Section 2.5.3);
- potential for an environmental levy to fund damage to the natural environment due to subsidence similar to the coal levy (administered by the MSB);
- interaction of the Project with the Dendrobium Mine (Section 2);
- Wedderburn exploration licence boundary in relation to the Project (Section 2);
- interaction of the Project and Sydney Gas leases (Section 3.1.5);
- management of high pressure gas pipelines across the Project extent of longwall mining area (Section 5.4 and Appendix A);
- longwall mining in the vicinity of bridges (e.g. Douglas Park Twin Bridges, Menangle Bridge and railway bridge) (Section 5.4 and Appendix A);
- previous longwall mining and subsidence effects (Appendices A to C);
- management of SCA infrastructure previously undermined (e.g. Cataract Tunnel and Upper Canal) (Appendix A);
- EA document structure (Section 1.5);
- ability of rockbars to naturally remediate after fracturing (Appendices A, C and P);
- subsidence predictions and application to each mining domain area (Section 5.4 and Appendix A);
- subsidence effects on groundwater pressures and watertable (Section 5.5 and Appendix B);
- potential depressurisation effects on deep groundwater bores at some agricultural properties (Section 5.5 and Appendix B);
- role of the MSB (Section 7.3.1);
- mining standoff distances from rivers to afford protection (Section 5.2.1 and Appendix A);
- management of groundwater inflows to the underground mining operations (Sections 2.10 and 5.5 and Appendix C);
- establishment of research funding arrangements (Section 8);

- Moreton Park Bridge (Blades Bridge) council works required to meet the MSB standards (Appendix A); and
- CRG member opportunity to comment on the EA document (see below).

It is anticipated the CRG will provide a submission following exhibition of this EA.

In addition to the above, three Project newsletters were disseminated during the preparation of the EA to inform the local community of the Project Application and status updates. Copies of the Project newsletters are provided in Attachment 4.

Further details regarding the provision of ICHPL information to the local community via existing media and community initiatives is described in Section 3.2.

#### **Private Landholders**

Real property descriptions for lands within the Project Application Area are provided in Attachment 2. A number of properties within the list are owned by private landholders, particularly in the vicinity of local villages and townships (e.g. Appin, Douglas Park, Menangle, Wilton, Wedderburn and Maldon) and agricultural lands in the western areas of the Project.

In cases where houses or buildings were identified in the Subsidence Assessment (Appendix A) and may be subject to mine subsidence, ICHPL provided letters to the landholders (through a bulk Australia Post mail-out) to provide background to the Project and included a brochure describing the MSB role in the process. A copy of the letters and brochure is included in Attachment 4.

Only one query (outside of the CRG) was raised by a private landholder during the preparation of the EA specifically regarding the Project. This query was addressed as a point of clarification at the time of its receipt.

#### **Aboriginal Community**

In accordance with the DECC's *Part 6 Approvals – Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (herein referred to as the *Interim Requirements*), ICHPL notified the following bodies regarding the Project:

- Campbelltown City Council;
- DECC;
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- NSW Native Title Services;

- Registrar of Aboriginal Owners;
- Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Wollondilly Shire Council; and
- Wollongong City Council.

The above listed bodies were provided with a copy of the Public Notice (described below) and requested to advise ICHPL of any person or group who would like to be involved in the consultation process.

In addition to the above notifications prescribed by the *Interim Requirements*, ICHPL also identified Aboriginal stakeholders with which ICHPL had previously consulted in regard to the study area or part thereof.

These stakeholders were notified and invited to participate in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. These additional notifications were sent to:

- Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation;
- Gary Caines;
- Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh Tribal Elders Aboriginal Corporation;
- Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation;
- Peter Falk;
- Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation (c/- Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Collective);
- Wargon and Burra Aboriginal centre Inc. (c/- Biami Pty Ltd);
- Woronora Plateau Gundungara (c/- Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Collective); and
- Wulungulu Elders Council (c/- Northern Illawarra Aboriginal Collective).

In accordance with the DECC *Interim Requirements*, Public Notices were made in July 2008, with advertisements in the following newspapers:

- Macarthur Chronicle (29 July 2008);
- Wollondilly Advertiser (29 July 2008);
- Macarthur Advertiser (30 July 2008);
- Camden Advertiser (30 July 2008); and
- The Illawarra Mercury (2 August 2008).

The advertisements invited Aboriginal persons or groups who wished to be consulted in relation to the Project Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment process to contact ICHPL.

A register for interested parties was opened on 29 July 2008 and offers for registrations were open until 18 August 2008.

Registrations of interest to the notifications and Public Notices were received from the following Aboriginal stakeholders:

- Campbelltown City Council;
- Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation;
- Gary Caines;
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh Tribal Elders Aboriginal Corporation;
- Kullila Welfare and Housing Aboriginal Corporation;
- Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation;
- Peter Falk;
- Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Wargon and Burra Aboriginal Centre Inc; and
- Wollondilly Shire Council.

All those parties who registered were invited to participate.

In addition to the above, DECC identified the following parties as having a potential interest in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment:

- Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation;
- Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation<sup>2</sup>;
- Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation;
- Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation;
- Woronora Plateau Gundungara; and
- Wulungulu Elders Council.

<sup>2</sup> The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation was contacted and they advised that they were satisfied not to be involved as long as the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council was involved. The Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation also indicated their support for any views and/or comments provided by the Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The above Aboriginal stakeholders not previously contacted by ICHPL in relation to the Project (i.e. Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation, Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation and Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation) were notified and invited to participate in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Subsequent to the above, the following Aboriginal parties/groups registered their interest in being involved in the consultation process:

- Campbelltown City Council;
- Coomaditchie United Aboriginal Corporation;
- Cubbitch Barta Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation;
- Gary Caines;
- Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Korewal Elouera Jerrungarugh Tribal Elders Aboriginal Corporation;
- Kullila Welfare and Housing Aboriginal Corporation;
- Ngunawal Heritage Aboriginal Corporation;
- Peter Falk;
- Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council;
- Wadi Wadi Coomaditchie Aboriginal Corporation;
- Wargon and Burra Aboriginal Centre Inc;
- Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation;
- Wollondilly Shire Council;
- Woronora Plateau Gundungara; and
- Wulungulu Elders Council.

A detailed description of the consultation undertaken with the registered Aboriginal parties/groups during the preparation of the EA (i.e. review of the proposed assessment methodology, provision of Project and Aboriginal site information, fieldwork participation and review of the draft report) is provided in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Appendix G) and Section 5.10.

### **Community Groups and Non-Government Organisations**

The Southern Coalfield Inquiry provided an opportunity for a range of community groups and non-government organisations to present their views on mining in the Southern Coalfield. A number of the community groups and non-government organisations specifically included comments and concerns in their submissions to the Southern Coalfield Inquiry regarding ICHPL's historic, current (and future) operations in the Southern Coalfield. The EARs issued by the Director-General of the DoP for the Project require consideration of the recommendations and findings of the Southern Coalfield Inquiry in this EA (Section 1.2).

### **Staff and Contractors**

Over 1,000 staff and contractors are employed by ICHPL in the region. In addition to the mechanisms described in Section 3.2 below, news bulletins in a dedicated employee newsletter (Illawarra Coal News) were sent and emailed to staff to assist in the dissemination of Project information. A number of meetings and briefings for staff and employees have been conducted during the development of the EA.

#### **3.1.7 Southern Coalfield Inquiry**

The findings of the Southern Coalfield Inquiry are documented in the SCPR (DoP, 2008).

The SCPR recommendations have been considered in the preparation of this EA.

#### **3.1.8 Choice Modelling**

In addition to the various modes of direct consultation undertaken for the Project described above, a comprehensive Choice Modelling Study was conducted for the Project by Gillespie Economics (refer Appendix L).

This study involved surveying the views of a large sample of NSW residents (approximately 2,300 people) about environmental and employment aspects of the Project and community values for these attributes.

The Choice Modelling study also included surveying a subset of people from the Illawarra and Outer South Western Sydney (approximately 660 people), to determine if the social values of the local community are significantly different to the values of NSW as a whole.

Choice modelling is a non-market valuation method that can be used to estimate community values for a range of environmental and social impacts. Environmental choice modelling applications involve surveying a sample of the population that will potentially be impacted by a project or policy. Respondents are provided with a number of choice sets where they are asked to choose between continuation of the status quo and a number of alternatives.

The status quo and each alternative are described in terms of a set of environmental and social attributes and a required payment to achieve this outcome.

The alternatives have different levels of the environmental and social attributes and different payment amounts, according to an experimental design. The choices of respondents can be analysed to show the impact of each attribute, and the respondents' socio-economic characteristics, on choice.

Because one of the attributes is a dollar payment, it is possible to estimate respondents' willingness to pay to secure additional units of each of the environmental and social attributes or to avoid loss of additional units of each of the environmental attributes.

The Choice Modelling Study conducted for the Project (Appendix L) has allowed ICHPL to determine an estimate of the value that the community in NSW attributes to key environmental impacts of the Project (e.g. potential impacts on streams, clearing of native vegetation and damage to Aboriginal heritage sites). The study also examined the social value that the NSW community attributes to the employment contribution of the Project in the region.

The Choice Modelling Study survey of some 2,960 people is considered to provide a representative sample of the NSW and regional population.

The valuations determined by the Choice Modelling Study are described further in Appendix L.

## 3.2 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND INVOLVEMENT

ICHPL's community consultation, communication and community investment initiatives are guided by the ICHPL Social Management Plan. The plan is consistent with the BHP Billiton Charter, Sustainable Development Policy, and Community Standard as well as ISO 14001 – *Environmental Management Systems*.

### 3.2.1 Appin Area Community Working Group

The AACWG was first established in 1998 (formerly known as the West Cliff Community Forum). The AACWG consists of community members from the townships and communities of Appin, Douglas Park, Wilton, Menangle and the southern parts of Campbelltown.

The AACWG provides for two-way flow of information between the local community and ICHPL. ICHPL and the AACWG's independent facilitator provide the members with regular updates on news and operations. Information on specific topics is presented at meetings (generally bi-monthly), and topics are nominated by the AACWG which reflect community interests and concerns. Regular briefings on mining developments, including current and planned activities and site visits are also co-ordinated.

### 3.2.2 Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee

The Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee was established in accordance with Condition 9, Schedule 8 of Development Consent (DA 60-03-2001) for the Dendrobium Mine.

As ICHPL's other mining operation in the Southern Coalfield with interaction with the Project, representatives on the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee were also informed of the Project during the preparation of the EA.

### 3.2.3 Website and Community Call Line

ICHPL maintains a website within the BHP Billiton web domain for members of the public to keep up to date with the operations in the Southern Coalfield and is a significant source of information including:

- mine locations and asset details;
- employment opportunities;
- contact details;



- health, safety, environment and community information;
- newsletters;
- media releases;
- sustainability reports;
- meeting minutes;
- monitoring and reporting data;
- development applications;
- economic contributions; and
- coal mining information for kids.

The ICHPL web address is provided below:

<http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/ourBusinesses/metallurgicalCoal/illawarraCoal.jsp>

ICHPL has also established a dedicated Community Call Line (1800 102 210) that is available 24 hours, 7 days a week for community members who have enquiries or who wish to lodge complaints in relation to ICHPL's activities.

### **3.2.4 Appin Community Office and Douglas Park Community Hall Displays**

ICHPL maintains a display of information of its operations for the local community in the shopfront window of the Appin Community Office, located in the township of Appin.

ICHPL also utilises the Douglas Park Community Hall each month (every 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday) to display information about the company and current operations for the local community.

The Douglas Park Community Hall has also been used by ICHPL for Community Information/Open Days.

Copies of newsletters, posters and relevant contact details are provided for community members wishing to discuss or receive additional information.

### **3.2.5 Community Perception Surveys**

ICHPL conducts perception surveys of residents in the Wollondilly and Illawarra regions. Conducted every two years, the random telephone survey provides information on a range of issues for the communities in which ICHPL operates. Questions relating to levels of trust of ICHPL and perceived community benefit provided by ICHPL are asked to determine a tracking score call the Trust and Community Benefit Index.

Conducted since 2002, the survey results show an improving trend in the Trust and Community Benefit Index in both the Illawarra and Wollondilly regions. Action plans are developed and implemented to address issues raised from the surveys.

### **3.2.6 Community Partnerships Program and Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program**

#### ***Community Partnerships Program***

The ICHPL Community Partnerships Program was established in 2004 in order to support community projects and initiatives in the region around the Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery operations.

Funding is provided through base funding from ICHPL and a contribution equivalent to three cents per tonne of saleable coal from Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery per year.

To provide for community-based decision-making on the allocation of funds, the Community Partnerships Program is administered by a board of six community representatives and two employees of ICHPL.

The Community Partnerships Program calls for nominations for funding/support from organisations in two funding rounds each year (i.e. 31 March and 30 September).

Community projects considered for funding include those in the following areas:

- aged care;
- community access to services;
- economic development (e.g. tourism);
- health and medical services;
- town recreational facilities;
- arts and cultural projects;
- persons with disabilities;
- education and youth;
- environment and heritage; and/or
- voluntary service.

Community projects supported by the Community Partnerships Program to date have included:

- Life Education to all schools of the communities in which Appin Mine and West Cliff Colliery operate;
- commissioning of a River Health Study on the rivers in the Wollondilly region;

- development of a website for the Wollondilly Tourism Association;
- improved disability access for the Wollondilly Heritage Centre;
- outdoor playground for Children’s Hope Foundation – Beverley Park Special School;
- counsellor training for Lifeline Macarthur;
- purchase of amphibious wheelchairs to allow people with disabilities to go into the ocean;
- provision of support material for the Wollondilly Cancer Support Group;
- local sportsground lighting; and
- F1 in Schools program – Picton High School.

Since 2004, the Community Partnerships Program has contributed \$830,000 to 70 projects in the region.

#### ***Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program***

The Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program was established in accordance with Condition 13, Schedule 2 of Development Consent (DA 60-03-2001) for the Dendrobium Mine.

The benchmark program was initiated by ICHPL with an investment of \$600,000 and receives regular funding of three cents per saleable tonne of coal per year.

Similar to the Community Partnerships Program, individuals and organisations in the community in which Dendrobium Mine operates are encouraged to apply for funding under the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program and are assessed against a range of selection criteria grouped into one of four categories: community; environment; education; or culture.

Community projects supported by the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program to date have included:

- Mount Kembla Memorial Pathway Project;
- Mount Kembla translator support;
- self-guided walking tour brochures;
- enhancing reading and technology support at Mount Kembla School;
- playground renewal at Mount Kembla School;
- roller door replacement at Mount Kembla Rural Fire Service;

- road signage for NSW Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WIRES);
- Mount Kembla Scout Group equipment store; and
- establishment of Mount Kembla Mining and Heritage Centre.

Key focus areas in the current and future projects for support by the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program include:

- activities for local youth;
- development of a strategic plan for weed eradication;
- development of a concept for the entry to Mount Kembla village; and
- development of self-guided village walks to promote the historical significance of mining in Mount Kembla.

#### **3.2.7 Sponsorships and Community Initiatives**

ICHPL has a strong history of supporting community initiatives in the Southern Coalfield through funding, donations of land, infrastructure and services and in-kind professional support.

ICHPL continues to support the local community (e.g. local services and schools) through sponsorships and community initiatives. Recent examples include:

- funding contributions to community projects (through ICHPL’s Community Partnerships Program and Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program – Section 3.2.8);
- sponsorship of a reading program in the Wollondilly region to encourage teenagers to read;
- apprenticeship and vacation work employment opportunities at Illawarra Coal;
- sponsorship of the Minerals Education Bursary Scheme;
- donations to the Mount Kembla Rural Fire Service;
- major sponsor of the Illawarra Coal Regional Science Fair – University of Wollongong;
- major sponsor of the University of Wollongong Science Centre – Illawarra Coal Theatre, and The Machine exhibit;

- sponsorship of Lifeline Macarthur training course;
- donations to the Camp Quality fundraiser;
- funding toward the Wollondilly Bass Club;
- employees working together with Mount Kembla Public School to restore a local creek; and
- employees giving blood to the Red Cross Blood Bank at Mount Kembla.

Through ICHPL's existing community programs (Community Partnerships Program and the Dendrobium Community Enhancement Program) and other initiatives, ICHPL fund a range of community projects. In 2008 to 2009, total expenditure for these programs and other initiatives was more than \$1 million (M).

ICHPL employees have access to the BHP Billiton Employee Matched Giving Program. Employees volunteering hours, donations and fund-raising are matched by the company, thereby increasing the contributions made by employees to their local community.

### 3.2.8 Media

ICHPL continues to take a pro-active position with local media with a view to achieving an overall balance in the media attention received. Media releases are regularly provided to local media outlets through newspapers (e.g. Macarthur Chronicle, Wollondilly Advertiser, Illawarra Mercury, Campbelltown-Macarthur Advertiser and Camden Advertiser), radio (I98 FM, Wave FM, C91.3 FM and ABC Radio 97.3 FM) and television (WIN).

A community information column is provided in the local newspapers to inform the community of ICHPL's ongoing support of community groups, operational activities, current affairs and achievements.

Examples of recent articles include:

- Dendrobium Mine water savings award;
- Illawarra Coal supports Science Fair;
- New apprentices join Illawarra Coal;
- Illawarra Coal supports Minerals Education Bursary Program;
- Mining and the Hume Highway and ARTC; and
- Illawarra Coal supports Lifeline Macarthur.

### 3.2.9 Community Newsletters, Fact Sheets and Publications

ICHPL publishes two community newsletters in the Southern Coalfield (Illawarra Coal Coalition News and Illawarra Coal Dendrobium News) with a distribution of over 4,000. The two community newsletters are published generally on a quarterly basis.

The newsletters provide the community with an update of ICHPL's operations and involvement in community activities and sponsorships. Further details are provided in Sections 3.2.7 and 3.2.8.

ICHPL has also produced and distributed a series of fact sheets for community members. A copy of the fact sheets and various newsletters are included in Attachment 4.

For specific projects, Information Sheets are produced and distributed via letterbox to the project specific communities. For the Project four Information Sheets were produced.

ICHPL produces an annual Sustainability Report in printed and web based format.

### 3.2.10 Local Suppliers

ICHPL has more than 2,000 suppliers to the existing operations in the Southern Coalfield. Major suppliers to ICHPL include:

- Scott Transport;
- Delta Mining;
- EDL Operations;
- Walter Mining;
- PKCT;
- AGL Energy;
- Joy Mining Machinery;
- Southern Colliery Maintenance;
- Jenmar Australia; and
- Mastermyne.

Approval of the Project would allow ICHPL to continue to support local suppliers of the operations, providing additional security and longevity of employment in the region.