



Charbon Colliery - Mine Closure

Community Information Lines For information and complaints

Airly	02 6359 2100
Inglenook	02 6359 0114
Charbon	02 6357 9206

Our People Graham Fuller- Multi-Skilled Mine Worker



What do you do at Centennial Coal and how long have been working for Centennial?

I work at Charbon Colliery; my position is a multi-skilled mine worker which is I work in both maintenance and production crews. I have been working for Centennial Coal in this position for the past 2 years.

What do you most enjoy about being a member of the Centennial team?

I would definitely say that the most enjoyable part of working in the Centennial team at Charbon is that I get the opportunity to work with a great group of people. The culture and work ethic that everybody has within the team makes it enjoyable to be apart of, everyone is easy going and you know that you can rely on your crew to watch your back.

What are 3 things you could not live without and why?

The 3 most important things in my life that I can't live without are my wife, my children and my car. My wife is my backbone she has been with me for the last 16 years through all the good times and the bad, she is my best friend who has given me my 3 beautiful children that I love and try to spend as much time as I possible can. My car I can't live without as living in Rylstone without any public transport and being a busy person there is not enough time in the day to get everyone from A to B without my car.

Charbon Colliery (Charbon) is an underground (bord and pillar) and open-cut coal mine located in the Western Coalfields of NSW and adjacent to Charbon village. It has been in operation since the 1920s and initially supplied coal for the former Charbon Cement Works until its closure in 1977. Charbon continued to produce coal for local use until it was upgraded in 1985. Its current production capacity is approximately 1.3 million tonnes per annum and it predominantly supplies the export market with some domestic sales to Sibelco.

Coal is a finite resource and after over 90 years of mining Charbon has depleted its coal reserves and is therefore scheduled to close by 2015 (underground mining to cease late 2014 and open cut to cease by the end of 2015). Planning for Charbon's closure has commenced and includes integrating the

closure design for the entire mine site, identifying the timing of the planning process, considering issues which relate to specific rehabilitation methods and economic and community objectives.

We recognise that facing the prospect of mine closure is a difficult time for our employees. As previously reported, despite Airly Mine (Airly) being placed on Care and Maintenance, Centennial Coal is continuing with a project to renew its Planning Consent. The consent renewal seeks approval to operate in the existing approved mining lease as well as an extension of mining into the areas that are currently licenced for exploration. Airly's current consent is due to expire in October 2014.

It is hoped market conditions will improve and mining can recommence at Airly which will provide an opportunity for redeployment of our employees.

Improving water at Charbon

Charbon Colliery has two dams which catch and store Charbon's water which is used throughout its operations or water which is run-off from rainfall.

This water needs to be treated before being released off site. To treat this water and to provide Charbon greater flexibility, Charbon has now started using new 'polymers' which are a non-toxic, and biodegradable substance which treats the water by removing sediment.

Traditionally Charbon used polymers that would require the water to be treated twice to remove the sediment. Using the latest polymers available, Charbon now only has to treat the water once.

"We add specific polymers to the water which mixes with the waters suspended sediment,"

"Polymers make the sediment in the water 'clump together' becoming too heavy to remain suspended on top of the water, so it sinks to the bottom of the dam allowing water to settle," said Charbon's Environmental Coordinator, Andrew

Hendy.

The use of these new polymers allows Charbon greater flexibility in water management and in maintaining the capacity of its dams in order to cope with intense or sustained rainfall.

"We sample the water first as it determines how much polymer we need to add to the water, we add it by using a small outboard motor boat to help it spread evenly throughout the dam."

"We've had great results as in less than 24 hours of being treated, the dam's water went from being dirty and muddy to being able to be released," concluded Andrew.

Charbon has recently farewelled former Environmental Coordinator Matt Gray who has moved on to a new role. Andrew Hendy who has been working at Charbon as a Graduate Environmental Coordinator is now the Environment and Community Coordinator and is a welcomed member of Charbon's team.