



Coalcliff Coke Works property

Community Newsletter June 2017

Illawarra Coke Company Pty Ltd

The Coalcliff Coke Works closed in 2013 after more than 100 years of mining and metallurgical coke production at Coalcliff. The former coke works occupies a small portion of the 118 ha property owned by the Illawarra Coke Company (ICC). The property is intersected by the South Coast railway.

The current owners of the company acquired it in 1996 from Kembla Coal and Coke Pty Ltd, a division of Rio Tinto. The purchase was conditional on Rio Tinto undertaking a significant remediation program, which was completed in 2004. As a part of the program, two water treatment dams were installed and significant contouring of the valley above Coalcliff was carried out to address the consequences of historic mining and coke making activities at Coalcliff. This was supported by a comprehensive re-vegetation program utilising Australian native trees, shrubs and grasses to improve site stability and facilitate soil retention.

Since the closure of the coke works in 2013 we have been considering the future of the property. We understand that the Coalcliff Coke Works property is very special, and while we are considering development of a small part of the property for housing, the balance of the property could serve the community in a number of ways.

Illawarra Coke Company values conservation

We believe the vast majority of the property should be dedicated to conservation and public amenity. This includes the escarpment and adjacent bushland. We commenced a conservation program several years ago, retaining ecologists to identify and record the flora and

fauna present on the property. We would like to see the land that is zoned E2 Primary Conservation made available for conservation and leisure activities such as walking. We have commenced discussions with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage about donating a substantial portion of the property to the National Parks estate. We will not undertake development that will threaten the visual amenity or environment of the escarpment.

Walking trails

The Forest Walk, accessed from the Wadi Wadi Track between Coalcliff and Stanwell Park, traverses our property along the escarpment, and forms part of the developing Grand Pacific Walk. Like many in the local community, we are also keen walkers and enjoy the outdoors. We are very supportive of part of the Coalcliff Coke Works property being dedicated to the public to enable the permanent connection of the beautiful Forest Walk with the Grand Pacific Walk.

“ It would be wonderful to see the Forest Walk form part of the public estate, for the benefit of local residents and to support tourism in the area.”

If you would like to register your interest in the project or you have any queries:



coalcliffcokeworks.com.au



info@coalcliffcokeworks.com.au

Illawarra Coke Company has maintained its EPA licence

The Coalcliff site is still covered by an EPA licence. The Illawarra Coke Company has maintained the EPA licence even though we no longer carry out any scheduled activity that would require one because we wish to ensure that high environmental standards are maintained until it is appropriate for Wollongong City Council to take over licencing of the site.

Balancing act

The property requires some further rehabilitation and will require ongoing maintenance. We are investigating whether a small portion of the property, which is currently zoned RU1 Primary Production, might be suitable for housing, tourism or other uses. In addition to conservation and possibly some housing, we expect a significant portion of the property can become public open space suitable for recreation and leisure activities. As part of this process, the Illawarra Coke Company has engaged a number of independent consultants to help us better understand the opportunities and constraints of the property.

Our investigations are continuing and we have not made any decisions about the future of the property. When we believe we understand the opportunities and constraints of the property, we will consult further with the community and Wollongong City Council. We look forward to receiving your ideas and feedback on our plans.

Working with Wollongong City Council

The Illawarra Coke Company has consulted with Wollongong City Council regarding the future of the property. We will continue to keep Council updated as we begin to better understand the opportunities and constraints presented by the property.

We have not lodged any proposal for the Coalcliff Coke Works property with Council, and we do not yet have a clear timeframe within which we expect to lodge a proposal. Any redevelopment of the property will be subject to Council and NSW Government approvals.

Like to stay informed?

We value community engagement. At this early stage, we have already proactively engaged with local community leaders, including representatives of the Coalcliff SLSC, the Coalcliff Community Association, Helensburgh Historical Society and P&C groups from local schools and received their ideas for the future of the Coalcliff Coke Works property.

We will continue to engage with the community as ideas develop, and will consider community feedback as our plans for the property evolve.

If you would like to register your interest or you have any queries:

- » Website: coalcliffcokeworks.com.au
- » Email: info@coalcliffcokeworks.com.au

Kate Strahorn,
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Timeline

- 1914 Coalcliff Coke Works commenced production
- 1996 Current owners acquire company from Rio Tinto
- 2003 Rio Tinto commences major rehabilitation program
- 2004 Rehabilitation program completed
- 2013 Coalcliff Coke Works close operations
- 2013 – ongoing Investigative studies are conducted
- 2017 Community consultation commenced with community representatives' site tour
- 2017 – ongoing Investigation of future use of Coalcliff Coke Works property

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