



# THE COALCLIFF COKE WORKS SIGNS A BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT TO PERMANENTLY PROTECT THE ILLAWARRA ESCARPMENT

Community Newsletter April 2019

Illawarra Coke Company Pty Ltd

The Illawarra Coke Company (ICC), owners of the former Coalcliff Coke Works property, have recently signed a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement with the NSW Government to permanently protect the Illawarra escarpment.

The NSW Governments Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, provides the legislative framework for the establishment of the Biodiversity Stewardship site.

In signing the agreement, the Illawarra Coke Company has undertaken to permanently protect and manage the ecological communities present in the biodiversity site to improve and maintain the conservation values of the land.

*Kate Strahorn, ICC Director said, 'we are very pleased to have signed this agreement. We view the ecological communities present as most important, so we are pleased to be committing to the ongoing management and protection of valued ecological communities.'*

The Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement will be registered on the title of the land and provides permanent protection for the flora and fauna within the biodiversity site boundaries.

Under the agreement the Illawarra Coke Company will implement a management plan which includes access control, weed and feral animal control, and fire management.

The primary objective of the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement is conservation management, however other uses such as passive recreation are permissible as long as they do not cause or harm the ecological community being protected.

The existing walking trail which traverses ICC property along the Illawarra escarpment linking to the adjacent State Conservation Area will still be accessible to walkers.

Investigations are continuing to ascertain the future potential for the remainder of the property which did not meet the criteria required in the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement. These studies are very detailed and will take some time to complete. We will continue to update the community with our progress via our website [coalcliffcokeworks.com.au](http://coalcliffcokeworks.com.au) and the ongoing production and distribution of community newsletters. To receive updates, please register your interest at [coalcliffcokeworks.com.au](http://coalcliffcokeworks.com.au).

'We are continuing to investigate the re-development potential of our property, but for now we are thrilled to be positively contributing to the ongoing preservation of the Illawarra escarpment.' Kate Strahorn, ICC Director.



### Who administers the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement?

The NSW Government administers the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 provides the legislative framework for the establishment of Biodiversity Stewardship Sites.

A Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement is binding on the land and requires the owner, and subsequent owners, to manage the land in accordance with the biodiversity stewardship agreement, 'in perpetuity' (i.e. forever, not 10 or 20 years like previous programs such as the Native Vegetation Incentives Program).

### Why wasn't the whole property included in the Biodiversity stewardship site?

For an area to be included in a biodiversity stewardship agreement, the area needs to meet specific criteria based on the ecological communities present.

The areas excluded from the biodiversity stewardship agreement did not meet the specific criteria.

### Does this mean the areas excluded from the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement will be developed?

No decision has been made on the future use of the remaining areas (i.e. those excluded from the Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement). The former Coalcliff Coke Works property is complex in nature and we are working through a comprehensive list of studies to better understand the best uses for this portion of the property. We expect some of the remaining areas of property will be dedicated to informal conservation, heritage, public amenity and other uses. Only a small part of the property is being considered for development.

The level of detail required in these studies dictates that they will take some time to complete. We will continue to keep the community updated on significant progress via updates to our website <http://www.coalcliffcokeworks.com.au> and community newsletters.

### Like to stay informed?

Please register online to receive project updates via email to stay informed.

Website: [coalcliffcokeworks.com.au](http://coalcliffcokeworks.com.au)

Email: [info@coalcliffcokeworks.com.au](mailto:info@coalcliffcokeworks.com.au)

*Kate Strahorn*

**Kate Strahorn, Director**

Illawarra Coke Company Pty Ltd