

## **CANONBIE BOREHOLES TESTS COMPLETE**

**Lisa Herbert**  
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AN AUSTRALIAN mining company conducting exploratory tests on the Canonbie coalfield have completed a vital stage of their project.

Lochinvar Coking Coal's phase 1b drilling programme, which included four boreholes, finished last Friday — one week behind schedule but on budget with no safety incidents.

And the use of a low footprint drill rig enabled the programme, which is New Age Exploration Ltd's flagship venture, to be completed with minimal community impact.

NAE managing director Gary Fietz said: "The completion of the phase 1b drilling programme has provided greater confidence that the nine-foot seam is continuous across the central region of the deposit.

"It has also provided confidence to add two extra holes to the current programme which, if successful, will extend the indicated resource in the northern end and southern parts of the deposit and enhance the scoping study mine plan."

Previous tests have indicated that about 112 million tonnes of high-quality coking coal is buried underground to the west and central areas of the coalfield.

And two additional test holes are now being explored to the south and north east of the site in a bid to locate more of the resource.

Raw and clean coal analysis results have also been submitted and are expected to be released in July, while a scoping study assessing the project parameters and financial viability is expected in September.

The company have previously stated that up to 300 jobs could be created locally if an underground mine is given the go-ahead.