

# NEWSTAN/AWABA COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2020

## Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee Details

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Newstan/Awaba Collieries	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January - December 2020
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	Alanna Ryan

### 1. Executive Summary

The Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is a combination of the two collieries' committees. Mining commenced at the Awaba Colliery in 1947, well in advance of the planning requirements under the 1979 Environment Planning and Assessment Act and ceased in March 2012. Underground coal mining operations began in 1887 in the area now known as Newstan and continued under existing use rights until 1999. The Newstan CCC was established in May 1999 as a Condition of Approval by the then Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning and in anticipation of cessation of mining at the Awaba Colliery, the Awaba CCC joined the Newstan CCC in 2011.

The Newstan/Awaba collieries and associated surface infrastructure are part of Centennial's Newstan Colliery, Awaba Colliery and Northern Coal Logistics, east of the M1 Motorway and located south of the Awaba village, south west of the township of Toronto, extending from the western extremity of Lake Macquarie to the eastern foothills of the Watagan Mountains in the Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government area.

The committee would normally meet three times per year as mining is complete at Awaba and the Newstan Colliery underground operations remain on care and maintenance since August 2014. With the advent of Covid-19, the March meeting was cancelled. However, the presentation prepared for that meeting was sent out with the invitation to all members to email any questions they had. The committee is only small but enjoys static attendance numbers and an occasional apology. Meetings are set for the ensuing year, in consultation with all committee members at the end of each year, to avoid any known conflicts with other commitments. The meeting schedule will be reviewed when the Newstan extension project progresses.

The committee operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects and is currently comprised of:

- three local community representatives;
- two Lake Macquarie City Council elected representatives;
- two Centennial Coal Mine representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

Nominations were advertised for new committee members twice during the reporting period but with most people absorbed with avoiding Covid-19, this was not successful. As the Newstan extension project Environment Impact Statement is likely to be lodged with the Department in the first half of 2021, it is hoped that timing of the public exhibition period may reveal potential new members interested in being on the committee.

The current community members are long term representatives, active in many local community activities and well known within the area. In fact, one of the members is also the

chair of three other stakeholder groups; the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance, the Five Bays Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, the LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and Deputy Chair of the Toronto Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group. With her networks, she brings a much broader knowledge and information sharing base to the Newstan-Awaba CCC.

Lake Macquarie Councillors also take a strong interest in the committee and their participation adds a much appreciated contribution to the success of the group.

For the reporting period, the committee interest has focused on some of the other Centennial operations around the lake such as the Myuna Lake Survey, the Myuna modification and the Northern Coal Logistics modification. Community concern was raised regarding the proposed haulage of coal on public roads associated with Myuna and lack of consultation. Discussion takes place at most meetings on the ongoing measures taken by Centennial personnel to prevent dumping and illegal trespass within and around the mining lease. These discussions have extended to the Council's efforts, the RID Squad and the cost to all entities in maintaining these preventative measures. The CCC is also interested in renewal energy initiatives undertaken by Centennial such as the Newstan Pumped Hydro Storage Project and the Awaba Solar Project.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water, groundwater, subsidence, the Southern Rejects Emplacement Area
- progress on Awaba Seep
- approvals update and current mining status
- Newstan Extension Project
- community complaints
- regulatory compliance for Awaba and Newstan
- broader community engagement and community sponsorship
- Community newsletter
- vandalism on public property
- Covid-19 response.

At each meeting, the committee is presented with comprehensive reports, including PowerPoint presentations and updates on matters mentioned above and those of interest to the committee. Regular updates are also provided in between meetings as required. A good rapport exists between all members, who are diverse in their interests but also united in their appreciation of their local environment. The committee functions well and fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

## **2. CCC activities over last 12 months**

- The March meeting was cancelled because of Covid-19. The August and November meetings took place as normal in accordance with Covid-19 requirements.
- No site visits were undertaken for the reporting period because of Covid-19. Similarly, no joint CCC's were held.

### 3. Key issues

The key issue for the committee during 2020 mainly focused on community concern regarding safety issues, public sentiment and coal haulage on public roads associated with the Myuna Modification. The illegal dumping and trespass throughout the mining lease is also a constant topic.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Illegal dumping and trespass on mining lease</b>	Additional concrete bollards and barrier to prevent access. Installation of a camera as a further deterrent.	Ongoing liaison with Lake Macquarie Council and the RID squad.
<b>Notification process of modifications and activities around the lake</b>	Committee requested to be informed of other activities and proposals by Centennial around Lake Macquarie	Additional information provided to November meeting. Committee to be advised in advance, where possible, to avoid public consternation. Ongoing.


### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Review meeting schedule.
- community representatives recruitment
- a site inspection of Awaba Solar Panel project.
- updates on progress of Newstan Extension Project.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	March 22 2021