

**NEWSTAN/AWABA COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022**

Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Newstan/Awaba Collieries	Reporting Period:	January - December 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Terry O'Brien

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 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:

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

With the resignation of a long term community member in 2022, the current composition of the committee is now considered quite small. As reported previously, failed attempts to attract additional community representatives over the past few years has placed recruitment on hold until such time as a review of the Newstan extension project is considered by the company. The after effects of Covid-19 have impacted on the region and many people are loathe to commit to anything new. As a consequence, the committee decided to reduce its meeting schedule to biannual, rather than increasing it. The meeting schedule and recruitment of new members will be reviewed in 2023 or when the Newstan extension project progresses.

The committee held meetings in March and November for the year. With the presence of Covid-19 concerns still present, the March meeting was a mix of video conferencing/in person options, whilst the November meeting resumed normal face-to-face protocol. 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 two remaining community members are long term representatives and participate in many local community activities within the area. As previously stated in past reporting, one of the members is involved with a range of stakeholder groups in the Lake Macquarie Local Government Area. Representation of Lake Macquarie Council did not change with the Local Government elections held in late 2021 and the incumbent councillor maintains his interest in the committee.

At the March meeting, the committee discussed the progress of the Banpu underground pumped hydro storage pilot project, ongoing measures taken by Centennial personnel to prevent illegal trespass within the mine site, sinkhole remediation and management, the Newstan mine extension project and submissions received whilst on Public Exhibition, noise mitigation works update at the Awaba compressor site, the placement of coarse material at the southern reject emplacement area and the capping and rehabilitation of the northern reject emplacement area.

The November meeting discussed that following significant rainfall in the first half of 2022, the emergence of a new seep referred to as the Awaba West, progress on the northern emplacement area capping and rehabilitation, the review of the extension project and the Resources Regulator and Rehabilitation management plan for large mines. There were no community complaints for the year.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water, groundwater, subsidence,
- approvals update and current mining status
- Newstan Extension Project
- community complaints
- regulatory compliance for Awaba and Newstan
- broader community engagement and community sponsorship
- Unauthorised access and vandalism at Awaba and Newstan sites
- Rehabilitation Reform

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. 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.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Meetings were held in March and November 2022 via video conference and face-to-face.
- No site visits were undertaken for the reporting period because of Covid-19 concerns, although an offer made to committee members for individual tours upon request.
- No joint CCC's were held.

3. Key issues

The key issues for the committee during 2022 have not changed from those of previous years. The Newstan expansion project, efforts to curb the illegal dumping and trespass throughout the mining lease remains static agenda items.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Illegal dumping and trespass on mining lease	Additional concrete bollards and barrier to prevent access. Installation of a camera as a further deterrent and enhanced security measures leading to Police investigation. Ongoing liaison with Lake Macquarie Council and the RID squad.	Preventative measures ongoing.
Noisy compressor	Improvements made to Awaba compressor site to suppress noise. An 'echo barrier' panel sound barrier was installed as a trial.	Additional panels installed. No further complaints. Complete
Awaba Seep	The drilling of bore hole to Awaba workings to passively manage and minimise water levels.	Update to 2023 meetings.
Question on methods used for sinkhole rehabilitation	Response provided to committee GeoFluv method is used for much larger areas and not used for MR10 sink hole rehabilitation	Update to 2023 meetings


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Review meeting schedule.
- community representative recruitment.
- 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 14 2023.