

**NEWSTAN/AWABA COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2021**

**Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee Details**

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Newstan/Awaba Collieries	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	January - December 2021
<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.

Covid-19 again impacted on the year's meeting schedule with the March meeting postponed until April. 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.

Call for nominations for new committee members remain in abeyance as the situation with Covid-19 accelerated throughout 2021, particularly in the Hunter-New England and Lake Macquarie regions. It also impacted on the year's proposed meeting schedule. Three meetings were held throughout the year. The March meeting was postponed to April and both it and the November meeting were held as face-to-face meetings, in accordance with NSW Health Regulations, while the August meeting took place via video conferencing. Although a small committee, the 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. The Lake Macquarie Councillors continue their support and interest in the committee and their participation is a welcome asset to the efficacy of the group.

During the year, the committee interest has focused on the welcome news of the withdrawal of the Myuna and the Northern Coal Logistics modifications which proposed haulage of coal on public roads between the two sites, a presentation on the Banpu pumped hydro storage project and an invitation for a committee member to join the stakeholder reference group, ongoing measures taken by Centennial personnel to prevent dumping and illegal trespass within and around the mining lease, sinkhole remediation and a proposal to list Awaba State Conservation Area as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water, groundwater, subsidence,
- update 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
- Unauthorised access and vandalism at Awaba and Newstan sites
- Awaba and Newstan Annual Reviews
- Review of triennial Independent Environmental Audit for Newstan and Northern Coal Services Project.

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**

- Meetings were held in April, August and November 2021 via video conference and face-to-face.
- 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 2021 was the progress and lodgement of the Newstan expansion project. Efforts to curb the illegal dumping and trespass throughout the mining lease remains a regular agenda item.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Actions Taken</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
<b>Illegal dumping and trespass on mining lease</b>	<p>Additional concrete bollards and barrier to prevent access.</p> <p>Installation of a camera as a further deterrent.</p> <p>Enhanced security measures leading to Police investigation.</p>	<p>Ongoing liaison with Lake Macquarie Council and the RID squad.</p>
<b>Notification process of modifications and activities around the lake</b>	<p>Committee requested to be informed of other activities and proposals by Centennial around Lake Macquarie</p> <p>Committee informed of withdrawal of modifications for coal haulage on public roads between Myuna and Northern Coal Logistics sites September 2021.</p>	<p>Committee to be advised in advance, where possible, of development activities at other Lake Macquarie Centennial sites.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
<b>Noisy compressor</b>	<p>Improvements made to Awaba compressor site to suppress noise.</p>	<p>No further complaints.</p>
<b>Bushfire management</b>	<p>Listed on agenda for November meeting.</p>	<p>Postponed to March meeting.</p>


#### 4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Review meeting schedule.
- community representatives recruitment.
- a site tour of Awaba Solar Panel project for those interested.
- 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 8 2022.