

NEWSTAN/AWABA COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2018

Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Newstan/Awaba Collieries	Reporting Period:	January - December 2018
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Nerida Manley

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 Northern Coal Logistics Project, 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 usually met quarterly but with mining completed at Awaba and the Newstan Colliery underground operations being placed on care and maintenance since August 2014, the committee agreed to meet three times per year and call an extraordinary meeting if and when required. It 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:

- four 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.

The committee members are diligent in their interest of all aspects of mining operations at site and the broader environment and are quite active within their respective local communities and passionate about the region. They are long term members and attendance numbers at meetings are static with occasional apologies because of other commitments.

For the reporting period, the committee interest has focused on a variety of topics. The most notable to the committee would be support of Lake Macquarie Council's application for the LT Creek dredging under the NSW State Government Resources for Regions Funding program. The committee has lobbied extensively for the remediation of LT Creek for over a decade, to seek the environmental dredging of the creek to address the legacy issues caused from century old, historic mining and accumulated sediments.

Although the application was short listed and subsequently unsuccessful, the CCC was buoyed by the strong support received from the State Member for Lake Macquarie, Greg Piper and Lake Macquarie Council. Whilst the committee was extremely disappointed in the outcome, it is likely to remain an ongoing goal.

Briefings and presentation on the progress of the Newstan extension project and modification have remained a constant agenda item during the reporting period, along with attempts to stop illegal dumping and trespass around entries to the mine lease area.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water, groundwater and compliance for Awaba and Newstan
- committee input on LT Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan Final Draft Report
- update and presentation by Lake Macquarie Council on unsuccessful grant application
- additional Council representation
- community complaints
- broader community engagement and community sponsorship
- Awaba Colliery Post Mining Heritage Management Plan
- Awaba Solar Panel Project
- vandalism on public property
- approvals update and current mining status
- 2017 Annual Review and Triennial Independent Audit

At each meeting, the CCC is presented with full reports, including powerpoint presentations and updates on matters mentioned above. An excellent rapport exists between all members, who are a diverse group and provide a good cross section of societal interest, thereby providing an effective communication forum between the collective community, the Council and the company. The committee functions well and accordingly, fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in April, July and November during the reporting period.
- Attendance at meetings is well attended with occasional apologies. commitments.
- A proposed site visit to the Solar Panel Project site was postponed because of lack of progress.
- There were no joint CCC's held.

3. Key issues

As stated, the pursuit of support for the dredging of the LT Creek remediation is likely to remain a goal of the committee.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Support for Remediation of LT Creek	Engagement with State Member for Lake Macquarie and Lake Macquarie Council. Letters of support written for funding application.	Ongoing. Investigate other funding options.
Illegal dumping and trespass around mining lease	Additional concrete bollards and barrier to prevent access. Centennial liaison with Lake Macquarie Council.	Ongoing.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2019 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- 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:	April 2 2019