

## Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	<b>Newstan/Awaba Collieries</b>	Reporting period:	<b>January 1 to December 31 2023</b>
Independent chairperson:	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>	Proponent contact:	<b>Jake Ingle Environment and Community Coordinator</b>

### 1. Executive summary / introduction

The Newstan/Awaba Community Consultative Committee was established in 2011 combining the two collieries into one committee. Mining began at the Awaba Colliery in 1947, prior to the implementation of the 1979 Environmental Planning and Assessment. Mining ceased in March 2012 and the mine still remains on care and maintenance. In the area now referred to as Newstan, underground coal mining began in 1887 and the mine continued under existing rights until 1999 when a consolidated consent was approved by the Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning. In 2014, Newstan was also placed on care and maintenance, although an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to recommence mining currently rests with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Both collieries and associated surface infrastructure are within the Lake Macquarie City Council Local Government Area, 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. As there is little activity on site and the Newstan Mine extension project is under review by Centennial, the committee's meeting schedule remains bi-annual. Plans to seek nominations for new members are also in abeyance pending the review.

The committee is comprised of:

- Two local community representatives;
- An elected Councillor of Lake Macquarie City Council;
- Two Centennial Newstan representatives, with attendance from others as required;
- An independent Chairperson.

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

- The committee met in March and September in the reporting period and discussed the Awaba Seeps, sinkhole remediation, relocation of endangered species *Tetratheca Juncea*, the Newstan Extension Project and the Newstan Complex Rehabilitation Management Plan, apart from environmental monitoring and compliance and ongoing vandalism on site, particularly at Awaba. The revised DPE CCC guidelines were also discussed and the committee have signed the revised Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest documents and agreed on a Terms of Reference as required by the Department.
- The community representatives are long term members and as such have a wealth of local community knowledge and of the mines' extensive history and enjoy an established rapport with mine personnel. As stated in previous reporting, although a very small committee, one of the members is an environmental advocate and represents four other local stakeholder groups. This does contribute to the group's broader community engagement.

- Meetings are held on site but no formal inspections were undertaken during 2023.
- For the past few years, the committee has partnered with Centennial personnel and provided support to the welfare of disadvantaged people residing in the area by way of donations at Christmas via the Pamper Care Project, administered through the local Neighbourhood Centre.

### 3. Key issues

The key issues for the committee remain constant with those in previous years. Until the company's review of the feasibility study for the extension project is completed, this is unlikely to change.

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
<b>Illegal dumping and trespass on mining lease</b>	Installation of security cameras and additional bollards to prevent access.  Close liaison with local Police, Council and RID Squad.	Ongoing.
<b>Relocation of endangered species <i>Tetratheca Juncea</i></b>	46 plants relocated and tagged under specialist Dr Colin Driscoll.	Monitoring and success rate reported to CCC meetings.

### 4. Focus for next 12 months:

- Anticipated reporting of the outcome of the feasibility study on the Newstan extension project at committee meetings, along with continued comprehensive reporting on company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance and any community complaints/ responses and planned activities.
- There are no known outstanding issues and these will be addressed when and if they occur.

Name of chairperson:	<b>Margaret MacDonald-Hill</b>
Date:	February 20 2024.