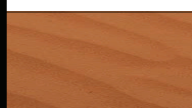


SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



APPENDIX 3



Centennial Coal

Awaba Colliery

Social Impact Assessment

August 2010

FUTURE POWER



Centennial Coal

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Abbreviations

ACHCR	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements
ADTOAC	Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
BBRA	Broad Brush Risk Assessment
CCC	Community Consultation Committee
DECCW	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
DGRs	Director General's Requirements
DoP	NSW Department of Planning
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECD	Environment and Community Database
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
HCRCMA	Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
ICCGs	Interim Community Consultation Guidelines
ICCRs	Interim Community Consultation Requirements
I&I	Industry and Investment, NSW
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
KLALC	Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Lands Council
LMCC	Lake Macquarie City Council
NOW	NSW Office of Water
NSW	New South Wales
NTA	Native Title Act 1993
PEA	Preliminary Environmental Assessment
RTA	Roads and Traffic Authority
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SIA	Social Impact Assessment
SMP	Subsidence Management Plan
WNAC	Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Awaba Colliery is a small underground coal mine operated by Centennial Newstan Pty Ltd (Newstan), a wholly owned subsidiary of Centennial Coal Company Ltd (Centennial). The mine entry and primary surface facilities are located approximately one kilometre south of the Awaba village and 5.5 kilometres (km) south west of Toronto on the western side of Lake Macquarie, near Newcastle NSW.

Awaba Colliery has been producing coal by bord and pillar method since 1947. The site is situated on crown land under lease to Centennial for the purpose of mining under Consolidated Coal Lease CCL746, and is adjacent to the Newstan-Eraring haul road owned by Eraring Energy. The locality of the mine is illustrated on **Figure 1**.

Awaba Colliery is a small operation with approximately 100 employees and contractors, historically producing around 800,000 tonnes of thermal coal annually. Since commencing mining operations in 1947, over 30 million tonnes of coal has been won from the Great Northern Seam using a combination of first workings development, pillar extraction, pillar quartering, and pillar stripping.

A form of pillar extraction of narrow panels is used to recover coal in pillars developed previously by bord and pillar methods. Development of bords (roadways) and pillars is ongoing but in some areas were developed many years ago. This mining method currently utilises continuous miners. Mine planning ensures panels are not extracted where depth of cover or surface constraints preclude total extraction. This mining method has been developed in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources (now known as Industry and Investment, NSW (I&I)) and has been used successfully to date, and is proposed to be continued for the Project.

Mining operations commenced at the Awaba Colliery in 1947, prior to the commencement of any planning controls, and have continued without abandonment since that time. Consequently, the Awaba Colliery presently operates pursuant to section 109(1) of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and clause 6B(1) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Development) 2005*. An application for a Part 3A Project Approval has been lodged by Centennial for the **Awaba Colliery Mining Project (the “Project”)**, which seeks approval from the Minister of Planning to allow an extension of underground mining and the ongoing use of associated surface operations. A detailed description of the Project and the **Project Application Area (the “Application Area”)** (including focus study areas) is detailed further in **Sections 1.2 and 1.3** below.

Minimal changes are proposed to existing surface operations, with one proposed additional surface disturbance relating to increased pollution control dam capacity located in a previously disturbed area. No significant changes to coal handling are proposed. Underground mining areas requiring approval to allow continued mine operations and production are outlined in **Sections 1.2 and 1.3** below.

At present, it is anticipated that the Project will recover approximately 2.0 million tonnes of coal which will be extracted from those areas depicted in Study Area 2 and Study Area 3 (refer **Section 1.2.1**) over a period of approximately five years or more, depending on actual mining conditions and relevant market drivers.

The application for the proposed Project is supported by an Environmental Assessment (“EA”).

1.2 PROJECT APPLICATION AREA

The **Project Application Area** (the “Application Area”) is illustrated on **Figure 1**. The Application Area has been identified as the footprint of the proposed Project including proposed mining areas and related surface operations that are considered relevant to the continuation of Awaba Collieries operations, as well as, the existing workings areas that will continue to be relied upon for ventilation and other mining related purposes, access to proposed mining areas or for any required emergency evacuation.

The Application Area has been broken into a number of Study Areas based on the types of activities to be undertaken for the Project. These Study Areas are outlined below in **Section 1.2.1**. The extent of the existing workings has not been included as a Study Area as it is considered inappropriate to obtain retrospective approval for historical operations. Additionally, there are no activities proposed in these areas for the Project and ongoing management of these areas is covered by the existing Awaba Colliery Mining Lease conditions.

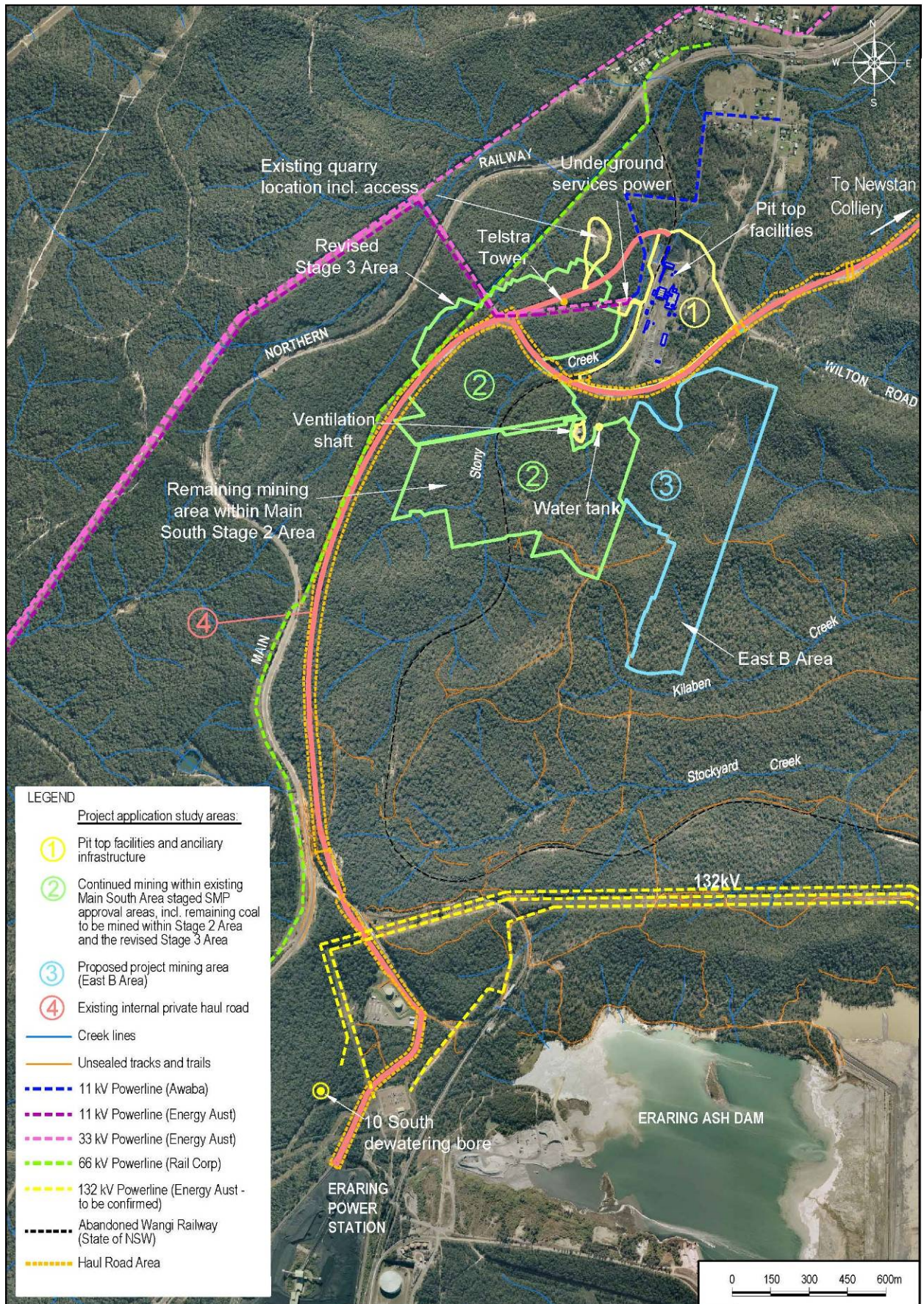
1.2.1 Study Areas

The Study Areas that have been assessed as part of this EA are shown on **Figure 2** and include the following:

- **Study Area 1 – Surface Facilities and Ancillary Infrastructure** – This area includes the colliery pit top facilities (including office and amenities buildings, existing coal crushing plant, workshop and storage areas) ventilation shafts, an existing quarry and mine dewatering bore (10 South Bore).
- **Study Area 2 – Continued Mining within Existing Main South Area staged SMP Approval Areas (including the Remaining Coal to be Mined within Stage 2 and the Revised Stage 3)** – The impacts associated with mining in these areas have previously been assessed in Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) Applications. The Stage 2 Area application was approved by Industry and Investment in September 2008, with the SMP Application for the Revised Stage 3 Area submitted to I&I in December 2009 awaiting approval. These areas are defined by a 26.5 degree angle of draw (as per DPI-MR SMP Guidelines, 2003). The outcomes from the SMP assessment will be summarised along with any impacts that are not considered to have been adequately addressed for this EA. It is important to note that, in relation to Stage 2 Area, only the coal remaining from the 1st of August will require approval for this Project (as shown on **Figure 2**); and
- **Study Area 3 – Proposed Project Mining Areas** - Consideration of the proposed Mining Area (East B Area) defined as the proposed workings plus 26.5 degree angle of draw (i.e. as per DPI-MR SMP Guidelines, 2003);
- **Study Area 4 – Existing Internal Private Haul Road** – This haul road will be utilised for transporting coal from the Awaba Colliery operations to Newstan Collieries existing Run of Mine Stockpile or Rail Loop and subsequently transported to the Port of Newcastle or Port Kembla for shipping to export markets (to be undertaken in accordance with the Newstan Colliery development consent) and also to the Eraring Power Station. It is noted that a modification to the Newstan Colliery development consent (DA 73-11-98) will be applied for under Section 96(1A) of the EP&A Act to allow for the preparation of coal sourced from the Awaba Colliery using the existing Newstan Colliery infrastructure.

In general, potential environmental impacts associated with mine access, ventilation and other services provided through the existing workings areas to the active and proposed mining areas will also be addressed in the EA.

Figure 2 – Project Application Study Areas



1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Awaba Colliery is seeking an approval from the Minister of Planning under the provisions of Part 3A of the EP&A Act to:

- Continue bord and pillar development and pillar extraction by continuous miners within the “Main South Area” (being the remaining sections of Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3, refer **Study Area 2**);
- Extend bord and pillar development and pillar extraction by continuous miners into the “East B” Area (refer **Study Area 3**);
- Produce, handle and distribute up to 880,000 tonnes of Run of Mine coal per annum (financial year) using existing surface facilities;
- Continue the use of existing ancillary surface facilities (all **Study Areas**);
- Expand the existing final Pollution Control Dam (refer **Study Area 1**);
- Continue the delivery of coal to the Newstan Colliery and/or the Eraring Power Station using the existing private haul road/transport facilities (refer **Study Area 4**).

The proposed East B Area contains a proportion of coal that extends beyond the existing footprint of mining at Awaba Colliery and includes areas of both existing workings and areas requiring new workings to be developed. Subsequently, areas of new workings are lateral extensions to the mine footprint which will require new development approval (being sought under the current Part 3A application). The East B area is located to the east of the Main South Stage 2 Area. The overlying surface in the East B Area is predominantly bush land on crown land leased to Centennial Newstan and contains no significant surface infrastructure. This area forms **Study Area 3** for the Project, as illustrated on **Figure 2**.

Mining will also be continued at Awaba Colliery in two (2) separate areas, these have been outlined below and illustrated as **Study Area 2** on **Figure 2**:

- **Remaining sections of Stage 2 of the Main South Area** (currently being mined) – this area was approved by I&I in September 2008 following an SMP application (as modified) under the NSW *Mining Act, 1992*.
- **Revised Stage 3 Area** (of Main South Area) – this area has recently undergone a number of specialist surveys relating to a SMP application submitted in December 2009 (approval currently awaited from I&I prior to December 2010).

At present, it is anticipated that the Project will recover approximately 2.0 million tonnes of coal which will be extracted from those areas depicted in Study Area 2 and Study Area 3 (see **Figure 2**) over a period of approximately five years or more, depending on actual mining conditions and relevant market drivers.

All existing ancillary surface facilities, supporting infrastructure, workings and their associated uses will continue to be relied upon by the Awaba Colliery (no significant change) as outlined further below. These aspects of the Project will continue to be used until such time as the Awaba Colliery is placed on care and maintenance and thereafter throughout that phase also. When the Awaba Colliery is placed on care and maintenance, this will be done in accordance with the *Life of Mine Plan* approved by I&I NSW in 2009, until such time that a final Detailed Life of Mine Strategy has been developed.

Annual production, handling and distribution of up to 880,000 tonnes per financial year is required.

Awaba Colliery requires approval to deliver coal via the private haul road to the Newstan Colliery ROM coal stockpile (in addition to the Rail Loop stockpile). This is assessed within **Study Area 4**. Newstan Colliery has submitted an application to modify its development consent in order to process coal received from the Awaba Colliery

Existing mining areas, will continue to be utilised for ongoing mining operations including (but not limited to) mine access, emergency management and underground services and infrastructure.

Continuing Mine Operations:

For the purposes of environmental assessment, further to the information above regarding continued mining areas, it is noted that the following aspects of mine operations are proposed to continue and remain unchanged. Existing mining operations are presented in detail in Section 3 of the *Environmental Assessment (EA)* and, where relevant, components are discussed further in this specialist report.

- **Coal Handling, preparation and stockpiles** – No changes are proposed to the current coal handling, preparation or stockpile procedures to the existing operations;
- **Mine support facilities and site access** – No changes are proposed to the current infrastructure and facilities, with the only exclusion being the expansion of the Pollution Control Dam (PCD) mentioned earlier above, with related water management considerations. Mine access from Wilton Road will continue to be utilised and no significant change is anticipated from current use;
- **Plant and equipment** – No changes are proposed to the typical plant and equipment used at the Awaba Colliery;
- **Transportation procedures** – No changes are proposed to the current transport procedures. The Project will continue to use the Newstan-Eraring private haul road to transport coal from the operations to Newstan and Eraring;
- **Mining methodology** – There will be no significant changes to current mining methods for the Project. This includes predicted subsidence levels and operational structure. Production rates may be slightly increased from approximately 800,000 to 880,000 tonnes per annum (financial year), depending on mining efficiency and market demands;
- **Operational water management** – the domestic wastewater generation rate from the Pit Top facilities will be similar to that which currently exists as there is no plan for an increase or significant change in staff numbers. Disposal of the domestic wastewater will remain as currently exists at site;

Mine dewatering procedures – the 10 South Bore will continue to be used for groundwater management and dewatering during both continued operation and care and maintenance conditions.

1.4 REPORT OBJECTIVES

Existing operations/activities and any potential impacts have been considered in the Broad Brush Risk Assessment (BBRA) undertaken for the Project. In the absence of an existing study or investigation, socio-economic impacts of the Project were considered within the BBRA to have the potential to be a significant risk in the context of failure to attain project approval which could result in adverse socio-economic impacts in the surrounding community and the Local Government Area (LGA). Accordingly, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) has been developed for the Project.

The role of this SIA is to evaluate the current socio-economic impacts of the Project on surrounding communities and to anticipate future requirements and concerns of those communities and relevant stakeholders. The SIA aims to:

- Identify the potential impacts and concerns of the community and stakeholders and how the potential impacts are considered and assessed within the EA;
- Provide assessment of any potential socio-economic impacts from the Project; and
- Identify and develop mitigation measures where necessary.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

1.5.1 Principles of Social Impact Assessment

The framework used to assess the potential socio-economic impacts for the Project, within this SIA, comprised the following activities as defined in SIA Principles (Vanclay, 2003):

- Identification of interested and affected peoples (**Section 2** - Stakeholder Identification);
- Facilitates and coordinates the participation of stakeholders (**Section 3** - Consultation Undertaken);
- Identifies and describes activities which are likely to cause impacts (**Section 4** - Identification of potential impacts and responses);
- Analysis of the identified potential impacts (**Section 5** - Assessment of Potential Issues); and
- Recommends mitigation measures (**Section 6** - Mitigation & Management Measures).

1.5.2 Consultation Strategy

The key consultation actions implemented by Awaba Colliery during the Project are detailed in **Table 1** below. It is also noted that Awaba Colliery has maintained a consultative approach during the preparation and implementation of previous Subsidence Management Plans (including for the Main South Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3 Areas i.e. Study Area 2), and while these have not been included in the consultation strategy for this Project they have been discussed in further detail in **Appendix 4** of the EA.

Table 1 – Stakeholder Consultation Strategy

Key Consultation Actions	Mode of Consultation
Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to provide a strategy to manage consultation for the Project.	-
Update the Awaba Colliery stakeholder database to include relevant stakeholders, and those stakeholders known from previous consultation.	-
Prepare a Preliminary Environmental Assessment and make publicly available following submission to the Department of Planning.	Website, CD, hardcopy
Advertise to the community to make them aware of the Project.	Newspaper (Lakes Mail), newsletter (Awaba residents and the Awaba representative on the Newstan Community Consultation Committee (CCC).
Hold one-on-one consultations, site inspections and further discussions with key stakeholders/authorities, providing additional information if/where required to address any issues.	Meetings/presentation, site inspections, phone calls and other correspondence
Conduct specific consultation with the Aboriginal Community in accordance with the DECCW <i>Interim Community Consultation Requirements</i> (ICCRs) (2004).	Letters, surveys, phone calls and other correspondence. See Section 9.2.2 of the EA for details
Address any feedback received following consultation within the Project.	Feedback has been considered and, where appropriate, addressed within this Environmental Assessment (including within supporting appended specialists assessments)
Submit Environmental Assessment for adequacy review by Department of Planning and address any concerns (if required).	CD, hardcopy, phone calls and other correspondence
Submit final Environmental Assessment and make publicly available following submission to the Department of Planning.	Website, CD, hardcopy
Responded to any submissions once the Environmental Assessment is available for stakeholder comment.	Response to Submissions provided to the Department of Planning

2 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

All consultation has been undertaken in accordance with a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which was specifically developed for the Project.

The purpose of the SEP was to provide a consistent management framework to identify and consult with stakeholders with an interest in the Project and to ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting of community initiated enquiries.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed to perform the following tasks:

- Identify Awaba Collieries stakeholder groups;
- Manage and facilitate the engagement of stakeholders;
- Identify mechanisms for communicating with stakeholders;
- Define means of recording feedback from stakeholders and the mine's response;
- Ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting of community initiated enquiries and contact; and
- Ensure contact information is maintained and monitored in the Centennial Environment and Community Database (ECD).

Awaba Colliery has identified stakeholders for inclusion in the consultation process in accordance with the SEP. This process will allow for Awaba Colliery to effectively maintain and continue to develop trust through comprehensive and well timed engagement and communication; contribute to good working relationships by proactively anticipating and addressing concerns about the Project; and to provide a framework for incorporating community feedback into internal/external reviews and addressing community concern. Stakeholders identified for the Project includes those listed in the following sections.

2.1 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The consultation for the Project involved the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) that was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) in order to allow DoP to assess any potential issues and provide the Director General Requirements (DGRs) to be addressed within this Environmental Assessment.

In order to appropriately provide the DGRs for the Project, DoP requested that Centennial provide relevant government agencies with a copy of the PEA and asked that they provide comments to DoP. A summary of consultation with relevant government agencies and any potential issues for the Project is included in **Section 3.2**. The relevant government agencies consulted for the Project included:

- NSW Department of Planning;
- Industry and Investment NSW;
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water;
- NSW Office of Water;
- Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority;
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority;
- Lake Macquarie City Council; and
- NSW Mine Subsidence Board.

2.2 COMMUNITY

Community consultation for the Project was undertaken by Centennial in accordance with the SEP, which provides the consultation strategy to be implemented and also identifies the relevant stakeholders for the Project. Consultation included:

- **Advertisement** - an article published in the Lakes Mail regarding the Project notifying the community of the Project;
- **Community Newsletter** - residents of Awaba village and a member of the Newstan Colliery Community Consultation Committee whom resides in Awaba village were provided with a newsletter with details of the Project.
- **Public Exhibition of the PEA** - the PEA was also made publically available on the DoP and Centennial websites.

It is recognised that the employees of Awaba Colliery comprise an important part of the community and have been identified in the existing SEP for ongoing consultation for the Project.

Community consultation for the Project is summarised in **Section 3.3**.

2.3 OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

There are a number of other relevant stakeholders that have been engaged in consultation with the Awaba Colliery during previous SMP applications for both the Main South Stage 2 (2005/2007) and Revised Stage 3 Areas (2009), which comprise the mining areas within **Study Area 2** (see **Section 2.3** of the EA). These relate to the non-mine owned infrastructure within the mining subsidence impact areas in Study Area 2. Details of the consultation undertaken for the previous SMP applications are summarised in **Section 3.4** and provided (in full) in the SMP written reports available on the Centennial website – www.centennialcoal.com.au. These stakeholders included:

- Energy Australia;
- Telstra;
- RailCorp; and
- Eraring Energy.

The outcomes of consultation with other relevant stakeholders is summarised in **Section 3.4**.

2.4 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

The consultation process with local Aboriginal stakeholders followed the *Interim Community Consultation Requirements* (ICCRs) (DECCW, 2004). These guidelines were followed for key processes required including identifying Aboriginal parties, providing them with information and consulting with them on methodology, assessment and the recommendations for management of the sites. The registered groups and / or individuals identified for the Project included:

- Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Daniella Chedzey
- Wonn1 Contracting
- Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy
- Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- NSW Aboriginal Land Council acting on behalf of Koornpahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council (KLALC)

Consultation with the Aboriginal community is summarised in **Section 3.5**. This is discussed in further detail in **Section 9.2.2** and **Appendix 6** of the EA.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Centennial has undertaken consultation, in accordance with the SEP, with local and state government authorities, Aboriginal groups and other relevant stakeholders for this Project. It is noted that in addition to the consultation undertaken for the Project, there has also been an extensive history of consultation undertaken by the Awaba Colliery during separate SMP application processes for both the Main South Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3 Areas (Study Area 2).

Table 2 provides a summary of all stakeholder consultation in relation to the Project (including relevant consultation undertaken during the SMP application process) and identifies the method of engagement, the date of the engagement and the issues raised or comments made regarding the Project. Further detail regarding the specific consultation is provided below in **Sections 3.2 to 3.5**.

In addition to this, Awaba Colliery maintains an environmental complaints database on-site as part of their operation in order for any community concerns to be received. A record of all stakeholder engagement for the Project is included in **Appendix 2** of the EA.

Table 2 – Summary of Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Method of Engagement	Date	Issues Raised/Comments	Section Addressed
Department of Planning	Letters, meetings, phone calls, Preliminary Environmental Assessment	03/03/10 - present	Director General Requirements for the Project were issued on the 22/04/10	These have been discussed in Section 1.6 of the EA and were addressed throughout the EA.
Industry and Investment	Letters, phone call, meeting	18/03/10 - present	Requested specific statement of commitment for subsidence monitoring and rehabilitation post mining, rehabilitation to be discussed including post mining land use and landforms, rehabilitation objectives and mine closure completion criteria.	Rehabilitation is discussed in Sections 3.11, 4.10 and 9.4 of the EA. In addition, a Life of Mine Plan has been developed to encompass these requirements.
Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water	Letters, phone call	18/03/10 - present	Key information requirements requested by DECCW are, the impacts on water quality, the impacts on quantity in water resources, subsidence impacts and the impacts on threatened species and their habitat.	These have been considered in the preparation of the key specialist reports for the Project and are discussed within Section 9.1 of the EA.
NSW Office of Water	Letters, phone call, meeting	18/03/10 - present	Requested that the following be identified/addressed; no hydraulic connection between the mining operation and surface water sources (including connected alluvium), no impact on adjacent licensed water users, basic landholder rights, minimum base water flows in Stony or Kilaben Creeks, or groundwater dependant ecosystems, finalisation of mine operations which prevents ingress of surface water flows to mine workings.	These have been considered in the preparation of the water management assessment and are discussed in Sections 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 of the EA.
Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Letters, phone call	18/03/10 - present	No major issues were raised , however, it was noted that the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan be included in the list of references for the Project.	

Stakeholder	Method of Engagement	Date	Issues Raised/Comments	Section Addressed
Roads and Traffic Authority	Letters, phone call	18/03/10 - present	No major issues were raised , however, RTA provided the guidelines for traffic generating development to be included in the list of references for the Project. RTA also requested that Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) be consulted regarding the traffic assessment requirements.	The guidelines were considered in the preparation of the traffic assessment and are discussed in Section 9.3 of the EA, while consultation with the RTA and LMCC is discussed in Appendix 2 of the EA.
Lake Macquarie City Council	Letters, phone calls, site visit and presentation,	18/03/10 - present	No major issues were raised , however, LMCC provided a number of planning documents and guidelines to be included in the list of references for the Project.	These have been considered in the preparation of the relevant key specialist reports and the EA.
Energy Australia	Letters, risk assessment workshop attendance	11/09/09 – 29/04/10	Consultation has been completed with Energy Australia for the previous SMP applications ¹ . These processes involved the preparation of management plans that addressed any concerns. No further issues were raised . In addition Energy Australia was also provided information regarding the Project. No issues were raised .	N/A
Telstra	Letters, emails, phone calls	06/11/09 – Dec 2009	Consultation has been completed with Telstra for the Revised Stage 3 SMP application. A management plan for infrastructure items was prepared and signed off by both Telstra and Awaba Colliery. No further issues were raised . In addition Telstra was also provided information regarding the Project. No issues were raised .	N/A
RailCorp	Letters, risk assessment workshop attendance, emails		Consultation has been completed with RailCorp for the previous SMP applications ¹ . Mine design has been specifically been prepared to address any concerns regarding the Main Northern Railway and associated infrastructure. No further issues were raised .	N/A
Eraring Energy	Letters, risk assessment workshop attendance	11/09/09 – Dec 2009	Consultation has been completed with Eraring Energy for the previous SMP applications ¹ . These processes involved the preparation of management plans that addressed any concerns. No issues were raised . Contact was made with Eraring Energy on 20 th August 2010 regarding 10 South Bore. Eraring Energy are aware of the bore and its input into the Eraring Ash Dam. No initial issues were identified and consultation is ongoing .	N/A

Stakeholder	Method of Engagement	Date	Issues Raised/Comments	Section Addressed
Mine Subsidence Board	Site inspection and presentation	23/10/09	Presentation by Awaba Colliery included a discussion on the proposed Revised Stage 3 and East B areas, infrastructure, past operations in the Main South area and the strata behaviour & subsidence results to date. No issues were raised.	N/A
Aboriginal and other Interested Groups	Letters	12/09/05 - present	Aboriginal consultation has been completed for the previous SMP applications ¹ . This has included a number of field surveys and individual specialist assessments covering the Application Area. The recommendations and accompanying management plans from these specialist assessments have typically addressed any concerns regarding the Aboriginal heritage management at Awaba Colliery. No further issues were raised.	Section 9.2.2 of the EA
Awaba Colliery Employees	Meetings (including toolbox talks), newsletters		No issues were raised.	N/A
Newstan Community Consultation Committee	Newsletter provided to Awaba resident on Newstan CCC		No issues were raised.	N/A
General public responses to advertisement/PEA exhibition	Newsletter, Advertisement within the Lakes Mail, Centennial website		No issues were raised.	N/A
Note 1: 'previous SMP applications' refers to both previous applications to the Project that make up Study Area 2 (Main South Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3 Areas).				

3.2 GOVERNMENT AGENCY CONSULTATION

3.2.1 NSW Department of Planning

The consultation for the Project involved the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) that was submitted to the NSW Department of Planning (DoP) on the **3rd March 2010** in order to allow DoP to assess any potential issues and provide the Director General Requirements (DGRs) to be addressed within this Environmental Assessment.

In order to appropriately provide the DGRs for the Project, DoP requested that Centennial provide relevant government agencies with a copy of the PEA and asked that they provide comments to DoP. All of the required agencies were provided a copy of the PEA on the **18th March 2010** this included:

- Industry and Investment (I&I);
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW);
- NSW Office of Water (NOW);
- Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA);
- Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA); and
- Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC).

Centennial also contacted these agencies by phone notifying them of the provision of the PEA, and also to offer each of the agencies the chance to meet with Centennial and view a presentation of the Project and discuss any potential issues. This offer was accepted by I&I, NOW and LMCC. All other government agencies declined this opportunity.

The DGRs for the Project were received from DoP on the **22nd April 2010**. A summary of DGRs relevant to the SIA have been presented in **Table 3**. A complete list of the DGRs has been presented in **Table 1.1** of the EA.

Table 3 – Director General Requirements for the SIA

Director General Requirements	Section Where Addressed
Social & Economic – including a detailed assessment of the costs and benefits of the Project as a whole, and whether it would result in a net benefit for the NSW community.	Section 6.0 and Appendix 3 of the EA
During the preparation of the Environmental Assessment, you should consult with the relevant local, State or Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners. In particular you must consult with the: • Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, including the NSW Office of Water; • Industry and Investment NSW; • Mine Subsidence Board; • Land and Property Management Authority; • Department of Transport and Infrastructure; • Lake Macquarie City Council; and • Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The consultation process and the issues raised must be described in the Environmental Assessment.	Section 6 of the EA

3.2.2 NSW Industry and Investment

As mentioned in **Section 3.2.1**, a copy of the PEA was provided to NSW Industry and Investment (I&I) on the **18th March 2010**. I&I responded to DoP on the **9th April 2010** (via letter) and provided comments on the PEA for consideration into the DGRs for the Environmental Assessment. A copy of the letter from I&I is included in **Appendix 2** of the EA.

Additionally, a meeting was held with I&I in Maitland on the **15th June 2010** which was attended by Greg Summerhayes, Ray Ramage and Elizabeth Laidlaw. During this meeting, Centennial presented an overview of the Project including; definition of the Project, relevant legislation and approvals relating to the Project, mine design, management of existing workings (existing and future), study areas and consultation. Following this there was a discussion with I&I regarding key issues to be addressed with the Environmental Assessment.

Additional comments from I&I that were not included within the DGRs, including those discussed during the meeting, have been incorporated into this Environmental Assessment, or, are being addressed in separate processes. This has included providing a commitment for subsidence monitoring and rehabilitation post mining and updating the existing *Life of Mine Plan* for Awaba Colliery to include more detailed commitments for mine closure in consultation with relevant agencies (i.e. LMCC and I&I). Of note, the Environmental Assessment has also addressed the following comments from I&I:

- Management of subsidence within historical workings areas (**Section 9.4 – Life of Mine Rehabilitation**);
- Mine design and depth of cover restrictions (**Section 7 – Mine Induced Subsidence**); and
- Spontaneous combustion (**Section 9.12 – Hazards Management**).

3.2.3 Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

A copy of the PEA was provided the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) on the **18th March 2010**. DECCW responded to DoP on the **6th April 2010** (via letter) which identified the information required by DECCW to assess the proposal. These requirements are outlined in the letter from DECCW included in **Appendix 2** of the EA. A summary of the key information requirements was provided by DECCW and included:

- Impacts on water quality;
- Impacts on quantity in water resources;
- Subsidence impacts; and
- Impacts of threatened species and their habitat.

All specialist studies for the Project have been prepared in consideration of the DECCW comments for the DGRs. In particular, to address the above key information requirements, the following were undertaken (and discussed within the EA):

- Impacts on water quality and quantity was assessed by GHD (**Section 9.1**)
- Subsidence impacts were assessed by Seedsman Geotechnics (**Section 7**); and
- Threatened species were assessed by Hunter Eco (**Section 9.9**). It is noted that the assessment for threatened species also included a referral under the *Environment Protect and Biodiversity Conservation Act* (1999) to the Australian Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

During the consultation for the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment for the Project, RPS contacted the DECCW – Aboriginal Heritage Unit on **15th April 2010**, to discuss the correct consultation guidelines to be followed for the Project. DECCW advised that the wording of 'meeting' in the transitional guidelines refers to the 'presentation' of information under Stage 2 of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements* (ACHCR), which may be provided in person, or verbally. The consultation log for the Project by this date showed that information had been provided and registered parties were verbally contacted and thus consultation should continue under the *Interim Community Consultation Guidelines* (ICCGs).

3.2.4 NSW Office of Water

On the **18th March 2010** the NSW Office of Water (NOW) were provided with a copy of the PEA. Following this on the **23rd March 2010** Centennial contacted Fergus Hancock (of NOW) and discussed the Project, particularly with regard to Awaba Colliery and potential water licensing issues. NOW provided a letter to DoP on the **19th April 2010** to provide comments to be considered for the DGRs.

A copy of the letter provided by NOW is included in **Appendix 2** of the EA. A surface and groundwater assessment for the Project was undertaken by GHD, the results from this assessment are discussed in **Section 9.1**.

A meeting was held at Centennial Newstan on the **11th May 2010** which was attended by Fergus Hancock. This meeting discussed the Project and water licensing issues for both Awaba and Newstan Collieries. It was agreed at this meeting that Awaba Colliery would apply to license water extraction and monitoring bores following approval for the proposed Project.

3.2.5 Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority

A copy of the PEA was provided to Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCA) on the **18th March 2010**. HCRCA responded to DoP regarding the Project on the **26th March 2010**. There were no major issues with DGRs provided by DoP for comment, however, HCRCA did propose minor amendments for biodiversity, cultural heritage and the reference list. A copy of the letter provided by HCRCA is included in **Appendix 2** of the EA.

It is noted that while HCRCA proposed the inclusion of the *Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan* into the reference list, they recognised that the most relevant guiding principles from the *Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Action Plan* were already addressed by the DGRs. No further comments were received from HCRCA.

3.2.6 Roads and Traffic Authority

A copy of the PEA was provided to the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) on the **18th March 2010**. RTA responded to DoP regarding the Project on the **9th April 2010**. A copy of the letter provided by RTA is included in **Appendix 2** of the EA. RTA suggested that the traffic assessment for the Project be undertaken in accordance with the *Roads and Traffic Authority's Guide to Traffic Generating Developments*. These guidelines were addressed in the traffic assessment for the Project as detailed in **Section 9.3**.

It is also noted that RTA were provided a copy of the draft traffic assessment for the Project, and offered the opportunity to meet and discuss the report with Centennial and GHD. It was decided by RTA that due to the road being managed by the Lake Macquarie City Council a meeting was not necessary, and the council should be consulted.

3.2.7 Lake Macquarie City Council

Following the provision of a copy of the PEA on the **18th March 2010**, the Awaba Colliery was contacted by the Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) Principal Development Planner on the **24th March 2010** requesting a site visit for several LMCC staff. On the **29th March 2010**, LMCC provided a letter to DoP to provide comment on the DGRs for the Project. It should be noted that this letter provided no major issues with the DGRs, however, did provide a list of references to be used for the Project.

On the **19th April 2010**, seven (7) employees from LMCC visited the Awaba Colliery. A Project presentation was provided by Centennial followed by a site tour. No issues were raised by LMCC during this visit.

During the preparation of the traffic assessment for the Project LMCC were contacted by GHD to discuss the site access for the Awaba Colliery on Wilton Road. On the **25th May 2010**, LMCC suggested, considering there are less than 250 car parking spaces at the Awaba Colliery, the site access be treated as a driveway access, and should allow sight distances accordingly. It is noted that these sight distances already exist. However, LMCC also expressed concern about the lack of signage on the approach to Awaba Colliery. These concerns have been addressed within the recommendations of the traffic assessment and the statement of commitments for the Project (**Section 9.3** and **Section 10** of the EA respectively). There were no other comments regarding the condition of the road.

LMCC were provided a copy of the draft traffic assessment for the Project, and offered the opportunity to meet and discuss the report with Centennial and GHD. It was decided by LMCC that the traffic assessment was adequate and a meeting was not necessary.

3.3 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation for the Project was undertaken by Centennial in accordance with the SEP. The SEP provides the consultation strategy to be implemented and also identifies the relevant stakeholders for the Project. On the **18th March 2010** an article regarding the Project was published in the Lakes Mail formally notifying the community of the Project. Additionally residents of the Awaba village and a member of the Newstan Colliery Community Consultation Committee, whom resides in Awaba, were provided with

a newsletter with details of the Project on the **29th March 2010**. A copy of the newsletter was also made available for download from the Centennial website - <http://www.centennialcoal.com.au/>.

Copies of the Lakes Mail article and the newsletter are provided in **Appendix 2** of the EA.

Copies of the PEA have been made available on the DoP and Centennial websites.

In addition, the community are able to pose questions, request information or make complaints about the operation via a dedicated phone line. **The Awaba Colliery Community Information Line is (02) 4950 3435.**

There have been no inquiries, or comments from the community regarding the Project to date.

3.4 OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

There are a number of other relevant stakeholders that have been engaged in consultation with the Awaba Colliery during previous SMP applications for both the Main South Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3 Areas. These relate to the non-mine owned infrastructure within the mining subsidence impact areas. As there are no infrastructure items within Study Area 3, and all infrastructure owners have previously indicated that they were satisfied with the level of management for the Awaba Colliery operations it was considered appropriate that the consultation strategy for the Project not include these stakeholders. Details of the consultation undertaken for the previous SMP applications are provided in the SMP written reports for both Main South Area Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3.

The previous SMP applications and accompanying management plans, for both Main South Area Stage 2 and Revised Stage 3, are available for download from the Centennial website - <http://www.centennialcoal.com.au/>.

It is noted, however, that contact was made with Eraring Energy on **20th August 2010** regarding the ongoing use of the 10 South de-watering bore for the Project. Eraring Energy indicated they were aware of the bore and its input into the Eraring Ash Dam. No initial issues have been identified and consultation is ongoing.

In addition, a letter describing the Project was sent to Telstra and Energy Australia on the **28th April 2010**. No comments were received regarding the Project.

3.5 ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

3.5.1 Introduction

The purpose of Aboriginal community consultation is to provide an opportunity for the relevant Aboriginal stakeholders to have input into the heritage management process. Aboriginal community consultation for surveys within the Application Area has been ongoing since 2005. **Section 3.5.2** provides a brief description of the Aboriginal community consultation undertaken previously for the Awaba Colliery, while **Section 3.5.3** details the consultation undertaken specifically relating to this Environment Assessment. In addition, part of the Application Area is covered by an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), this is described in **Section 3.5.4**.

3.5.2 Previous Aboriginal Consultation

Awaba Colliery has undertaken a number of heritage assessments which have involved consultation with the Aboriginal community for various portions of land within the Application Area (ERM 2005; Indigenous Outcomes Pty Ltd 2007; RPS 2009; RPS 2010a as cited in RPS 2010b). These heritage assessments were undertaken for different consent authorities, including the Mine Subsidence Board and Department of Planning, and as such have used varying methods for Aboriginal consultation in accordance with the specifications of the relevant consent authority. The consultation process undertaken for each of these assessments has been detailed within the respective reports. These have been included as appendices to the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment for the Project (**Appendix 7** of the EA).

In addition to the consultation process undertaken for the above heritage assessments, these also typically involved the participation of the Aboriginal community in the completion of a field survey. **Table 4** provides a summary of the previous surveys undertaken within the Application Area.

Table 4 – Previous Surveys Undertaken within the Application Area

Survey Area	Participants ¹	Date	Source	Comment
Study Area 1 – portion of (i.e. quarry area)	KLALC & ADTOAC	23 rd Feb, 2007	Indigenous Outcomes Pty Ltd (2007)	This survey was undertaken by seven participants from two interested Aboriginal Groups (including six from KLALC and one from ADTOAC)
Study Area 2 - (Main South Area ²)	WNAC	12 th & 13 th Sep, 2005	ERM (2005)	Survey undertaken as part of a Subsidence Management Plan application. This survey also covered areas not within the Application Area for the Project
Study Area 2 - northern portion (i.e. Revised Stage 3 Area)	WNAC & KLALC	7 th & 13 th Oct, 2009	RPS (2009)	Survey undertaken as part of a Subsidence Management Plan application submitted to I&I in Dec, 2009.
Study Area 3 - East B Area	WNAC, KLALC & ADTOAC	7 th & 13 th Oct, 2009 and 16 th Apr, 2010	RPS (2010a)	The survey for Study Area 3 was undertaken in two parts. The northern portion was surveyed in October 2009, and following an extension of the area to the south a second survey was undertaken in April 2010.
<i>Note 1: WNAC = Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation; KLALC = Koompahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council; and ADTOAC = Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.</i>				
<i>Note 2: Original survey included entire Main South Area, which was approved in stages (i.e. Stage 1, Stage 2 and the 'Revised' Stage 3 Areas). As the Stage 3 Area had been 'Revised' a separate survey was undertaken within the Revised Stage 3 Area.</i>				

3.5.3 Aboriginal Consultation for the Project

The consultation process with local Aboriginal stakeholders followed the DECCW *Interim Community Consultation Requirements* (ICCRs) (2004) as recommended in the DEC 2005 *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (for Part 3A assessments). These guidelines were followed for identifying Aboriginal parties, providing them with information and consulting with them on methodology, assessment and the recommendations for management of the sites.

New consultation guidelines, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010) were released in April 2010. However, as discussed in **Section 3.2.3**, DECCW has advised that consultation commenced for projects prior to the 12 April 2010 can continue under the ICCR process. In these circumstances the proponent is not required to recommence consultation under the new 2010 guidelines. Consultation for the Project under the ICCR guidelines was commenced in March 2010.

Stage 1 of the ICCR process (notification of stakeholders) was undertaken by contacting the relevant authorities regarding potential Aboriginal stakeholders for the study area (Local Aboriginal Land Council, Registrar of Aboriginal Owners, Native Title Services, Local Councils and DECCW) and an advertisement placed in a local print media. The advertisement was published in the Newcastle Herald (3 April 2010), inviting Aboriginal stakeholders to register an expression of interest. Seven (7) Aboriginal groups and / or individuals formally expressed interest at the end of the registration period. The registered groups and / or individuals are shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 – List of Registered Aboriginal Stakeholders for the Project

Aboriginal Stakeholder	Date Expression of Interest Received
Awabakal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	30-Mar-2010
Daniella Chedzey	31-Mar-2010
Wonn1 Contracting	31-Mar-2010
Awabakal Descendants Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	1-Apr-2010
Gidawaa Walang Cultural Heritage Consultancy	7-Apr-2010
Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation	8-Apr-2010
NSW Aboriginal Land Council acting on behalf of Koombahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council	14-Apr-2010

Stage 2 ICCR letters were sent to the registered stakeholders detailing the methodology for the assessment. No comments regarding Stage 2 of the ICCRs were received.

A copy of the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment was forwarded to the seven (7) registered groups for comment in April 2010. The responses indicate that there is in principle agreement with the report and that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) should be prepared as part of the ongoing management for the Awaba Colliery. The preparation of an ACHMP is discussed in **Sections 9.2 and 10**.

3.5.4 Indigenous Land Use Agreement Consultation

The *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA) recognises that Aboriginal people can have rights and interests to land which derives from their traditional laws and customs. Native title rights can include rights to: live on the land, access the land for traditional purposes, protect important places and sites, collect food and medicinal resources from native plants, hunt and fish, teach traditional law and customs, and to have input into landuse practices and development planning. Native title can be negotiated in three ways; through a Native Title Claim (applications and determinations), through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), or future act agreements.

An ILUA is an agreement between a native title group and other parties who use or manage the land and waters. The ILUA process allows for negotiation between indigenous groups and other parties over the use and management of land and water resources, as well as providing a means for coming to a formal agreement. ILUA are binding once they have been registered on the Native Title Tribunal's Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Lands within the Project study areas are subject to an ILUA which was entered into on the 28th of May 1999 by the Wonnarua People (Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation) and Powercoal Pty Ltd which has since been acquired by Centennial. As such, Centennial is bound by the terms of the ILUA which are set out in the Master Deed.

Centennial (and formerly Powercoal) has undertaken extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community over a number of years for lands within the Application Area. Aboriginal consultation in the 1990s culminated in the formulation of the ILUA (Master Deed 1999). The ILUA has ensured ongoing consultation with the Wonnarua People (Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation - WNAC), over the last decade for lands within and adjacent to the Application Area. As a portion of the East B Area (Study Area 3) is located within an area that has not been previously mined or surveyed, the ILUA for the area was engaged. This has involved additional consultation with WNAC for this Project.

3.6 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

The goal of the Awaba Colliery SEP was to establish a set of guidelines to effectively engage with stakeholders and to fulfil the commitment by Centennial to openly communicate with stakeholders about Awaba Colliery and the Project. This was communicated with local and state government authorities, Aboriginal groups and other relevant stakeholders for this Project. A number of strategies were implemented by Awaba Colliery to portray the relevant information to each of the stakeholders as detailed in the preceding sections.

Through the process of providing relevant information and engaging in one-on-one meetings and further discussions with interested groups Awaba Colliery has effectively resolved and addressed any issues raised regarding the Project. There were no further outstanding issues identified through this consultation process that are required to be addressed.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND RESPONSES

A variety of potential issues were raised throughout the consultation process as demonstrated in **Table 6**. All identified issues with the exception of infrastructure have been adequately addressed through the completion of speciality reports. A summary of relevant mitigation measures shall be provided in **Section 6** of this report. Infrastructure and associated impacts shall be discussed in detail in **Section 5.1**.

Table 6 - Issues identified through the consultation process and response for the Project

Potential Issue	Response
Subsidence impacts	Specialist report by GHD; Subsidence Assessment Report , Subsidence Risk Assessment (see Appendix 4 of the EA), and Mine Subsidence (see Section 7 of the EA)
Rehabilitation	Mine Closure Plan (Centennial, 2008), and Life of Mine and Rehabilitation (see Section 9.4 of the EA)
Water quality and quantity	Specialist reports by GHD; Water Management Assessment, Water Balance Assessment (see Appendix 4a & 4b of the EA), Watercourse Management Plan, Water Management Plan (in draft), and Water Management (see Section 9.1 of the EA)
Threatened species and habitat	Specialist report by Hunter Eco Pty Ltd; Ecology Assessment (see Appendix 11 of the EA), and Ecology (see Section 9.9 of the EA)
Hydrology	Specialist reports by GHD; Water Management Assessment, Watercourse Management Plan, Water Management Plan (in draft), Water Balance Assessment (see Appendix 4a & 4b of the EA), and Water Management (see Section 9.1 of the EA)
Landholder rights (water access)	Specialist reports by GHD; Water Management Assessment, Watercourse Management Plan, Water Management Plan (in draft), Water Balance Assessment (see Appendix 4a & 4b of the EA), and Water Management (see Section 9.1 of the EA)
Social Infrastructure	This was identified by the SIA and has been discussed below in Section 5.1
Aboriginal heritage	Specialist report by RPS; Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (see Appendix 5 of the EA), and Aboriginal Heritage (see Section 9.2 of the EA)

In addition, Awaba Colliery has identified a range of potential socio-economic impacts associated with the Project (see **Table 7**). These will be discussed in order to effectively assess the potential impacts of the Project.

Socio-economic impacts associated with the Project have been addressed by specialty reports with the exception of economic contributions and employment (see **Table 7**). Relevant mitigation measures that have been recommended by these reports shall be provided in Section 6 of this report. Economic contributions and employment shall be discussed in detail in **Section 5.2**.

Table 7 Socio-economic impacts and response for the Project

Socio-Economic Impact	Response
Economic contributions	This was identified by the SIA and has been discussed in Section 6.3.2.1 of the EA.
Traffic	Specialist report by GHD; Traffic Assessment, and Traffic and Transport (see Section 9.3 of the EA)
Hazards	Hazardous Substances Management System, Asbestos Management Plan, Bushfire Management Plan, Public Safety Management Plan, Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan and Hazards Management (see Section 9.12 of the EA)
Aboriginal & European Heritage	Specialist report by RPS; Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (see Appendix 7 of the EA), Aboriginal Heritage and European Heritage (see Sections 9.2 and 9.5 of the EA)
Employment	This was identified by the SIA and has been discussed in Section 6.3.2.2 .
Environment	Specialist reports; Air Quality Impact Assessment by Heggies and Air Quality Management (see Appendix 9 and Section 9.7 of the EA); Water Management Assessment, Water Balance Assessment by GHD (see Appendices 4a & 4b of the EA), Water Management Plan (in draft), Watercourse Management Plan and Water Management (see Section 9.1 of the EA); Environmental Noise Impact Assessment by Heggies and Noise Management (see Appendix 8 and Section 9.6 of the EA); and Ecology Assessment, by Heggies and Ecology (see Appendix XX and Section 9.9 of the EA)

5 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL ISSUES

5.1 IDENTIFIED IMPACTS

5.1.1 Social Infrastructure

The SIA conducted an analysis of potential socio-economic impacts associated with the Project and social infrastructure/services which include those provided by government agencies. This consists of facilities and services that support the community of Awaba including: roads, school, medical, shops, sewage treatment, electricity and water supply.

The Awaba Colliery Mining Project will potentially increase production from 800,000 to 880,000 tonnes per annum whilst employment levels are not expected to change significantly. The Project will utilise existing plant, equipment and infrastructure and will not result in any significant requirements or impacts upon the existing social infrastructure. The Awaba Colliery has been operating continuously at the site since 1947 and to date no formal complaints regarding social infrastructure impacts have been received (indeed, Awaba Colliery has been acknowledged for its support to the local community including schools and sporting clubs).

With respect to roads and potential traffic generation, the specialist traffic assessment for the Project (GHD 2010c) concluded that no additional traffic will be generated by the Project. Employment levels for Awaba Colliery will reduce over time due to the number of employees and contractors being reduced towards end of mine life. Deliveries are expected to remain similar to current levels until the end of mine life. The private haul road will continue to be used for coal haulage such that no public roads are used. Notwithstanding this, the traffic impact assessment for the Project found that Wilton Road had more than sufficient capacity to handle continued growth up to 2020 (GHD 2010c, see **Appendix 8** of the EA).

5.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

5.2.1 Economic Contributions

The Awaba Colliery currently makes annual economic contributions of **\$40.5 million** (see **Table 8**). Approximately half of these contributions are in the form of invoices paid which has significant flow on effects throughout the community/region/state. **\$15.7 million** is paid in gross wages annually which in turn has positive impacts upon the employment rate of the region and also the local and regional economies. The local and NSW governments also receive a combined annual contribution of **\$1 million** in taxes and rates. Economic contributions of the Awaba Colliery also provide flow on effects throughout the regional economy. The Awaba Colliery also provides financial support in the form of sponsorship to a variety of community organisations and events throughout the Lake Macquarie Local region. These include:

- Macquarie Scorpions Rugby League Football Club;
- Team Lake Macquarie 2010;
- Life Education Australia;
- Carols by the Lake 2009;
- The Southlake Christmas Spectacular 2009;
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter;
- Toronto Meals on Wheels;
- Awaba Public School;
- Paddlefest 2010;
- Westlakes Junior Soccer Club; and
- The Lake Macquarie Australia Day Festival 2010.

Table 8 – Awaba Colliery Annual Economic Contributions

Item	Contribution
Gross Wages (Awaba Colliery employees only)	\$14.8M
Gross Wages (Mining Contractor only)	\$0.9M
Awaba Colliery Invoices Paid	\$19.6M
Local Taxes (including rates and contributions)	\$0.3M
State Taxes (including pay roll tax)	\$0.7M
Royalties	\$4.2M
Total	\$40.5M

At present, it is anticipated that the Project will recover approximately 2.0 million tonnes of coal which will be extracted over a period of approximately five years or more, depending on actual mining conditions and relevant market drivers. Accordingly, approval of the Project will result in the continuation of economic contributions.

Further positive economic impacts as a result of the Project include the provision of competitively priced, high quality coal for domestic and international customers to provide for the energy requirements of the people of NSW and elsewhere, and additional export income for Australia with the benefits associated with improved terms of trade.

Some negative impacts would occur within the region in the event that the Project was not approved. The annual economic contributions detailed in **Table 8** would no longer be injected into the local and regional economy. Associated flow on effects throughout the local community of Awaba and Lake Macquarie region would also be adversely impacted.

5.2.2 Employment

The Awaba Colliery employs approximately 100 people, including 88 full time employees and up to a further 12 contractors. Whilst mining only accounts for 1.3% of employment in the Lake Macquarie LGA relative to other industries (see **Table 9** and **Figure 3**)(Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006), mining and mining-related businesses are still intrinsic to the region's economic strength, with Centennial Coal being one of the largest underground coal suppliers in NSW (DoP, 2008). The state of NSW has an average employment within the mining sector of 0.5% (see **Figure 3**) (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006). The 100 people employed by the Awaba Colliery (see **Table 10**) equate to 6% of the total people employed in the mining industry within the Lake Macquarie LGA.

Table 9 – Industry Employment Statistics (Popular Industry Sectors) compared with Mining

[illegible]

Figure 3 – Employment by Industry as a percentage in Lake Macquarie LGA, Wyong LGA and NSW

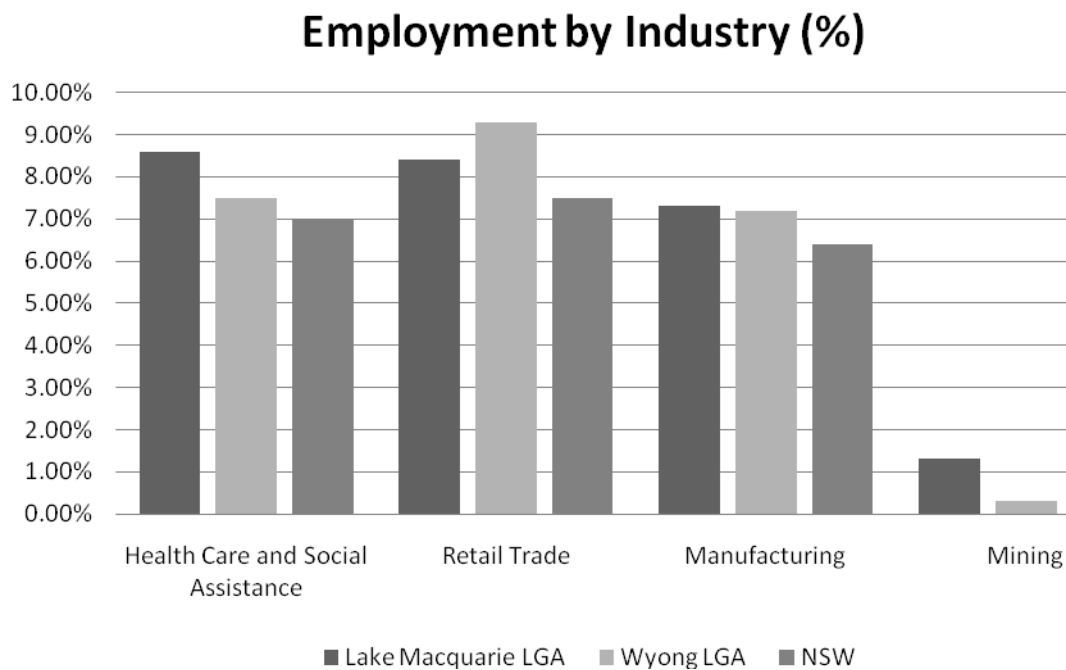


Table 10 – Working Arrangement

Work Arrangement	Number of Employees
Full-time	88
Part-time	-
Shift Work	65
Day Shift Only	23

As noted earlier in this section, subject to actual mining conditions and relevant market drivers, at present it is anticipated that the approval of the Project could sustain these positions for a period of approximately five years or more, prior to the mine entering care and maintenance under the approved Life of Mine Plan. This would have positive impacts relating to employment levels in the Lake Macquarie region.

In the event that the Project was not approved there would be negative impacts relating to employment levels at the Awaba Colliery. The positions would likely only be sustained until the completion of existing extraction operations at the end of 2011. This will have no direct impact on employment levels within the town of Awaba (see **Table 11**), although there will be effects throughout the local region. Impacts due to closure would be managed in accordance with the approved Life of Mine Plan.

Table 11 – Workforce Residential Location

Location	Number of Employees
Awaba	-
Blackalls Park	4
Lake Macquarie (Other)	24
Other	60

6 MITIGATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES

The Project-related benefits for the community surrounding the Awaba Colliery will be maximised and adverse impacts minimised to the greatest extent possible through the implementation of the mitigation measures and management procedures that have been outlined within the specialist assessments outlined in **Tables 6** and **7**, and discussed in **Section 9** of the EA. In addition, the following measures and procedures will also ensure positive socio-economic outcomes for the Project:

- The Awaba Colliery will continue to provide ongoing economic contribution to the local community. It is noted that, in the event that the Awaba Colliery was no longer operational a variety of community groups and sporting bodies would potentially be impacted with regard to sponsorship. Centennial operates a number of mine sites throughout the Lake Macquarie region and will continue to maintain its presence and strive to support the community;
- The Awaba Colliery will continue to review any request by a community organisation for support or assistance throughout the life of the Project;
- An open and consultative approach will be maintained with the residents and community surrounding the Awaba Colliery throughout the life of the Project;
- Continued implementation of the Awaba Stakeholder Engagement Plan;
- The existing Awaba Colliery Community Information Line will be maintained for the life of the Project. This will allow the community to pose questions, request information or make complaints about the operation. The **Awaba Colliery Community Information Line is (02) 4950 3435**; and
- All community complaints and enquiries are recorded in the Awaba Colliery Environment and Community Database. This ensures that any follow-up actions to any complaints received regarding the operation are completed promptly.

7 CONCLUSION

It is estimated that during the life of the Project approximately \$81 million would be contributed to the local, regional, state and national economies. It is noted that the Project will provide a continuation of employment for 100 employees and contractors, and will also provide beneficial flow-on effects for the local community and surrounding areas.

The continued operation of the Awaba Colliery over the past sixty three years has provided numerous socio-economic benefits throughout the region. Although it is not predicted that there will be a direct increase in employment or economic activity as a result of the Project approval, it is however, anticipated that it will effectively sustain the current benefits during the period of active mining at Awaba Colliery.. This is very important to the socio-economic wellbeing of the region which is already subject to a 6.7% rate of unemployment. Therefore, assuming that the Project receives approval, potential adverse socio-economic impacts will be temporarily negated within the region.

8 REFERENCES

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