



3 December 2021

Ms Kiersten Fishburn  
Secretary  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attention: Melissa Anderson,

Dear Ms Anderson, [Melissa.Anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.Anderson@planning.nsw.gov.au)

**RE: STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION - NEWSTAN MINE  
EXTENSION PROJECT**

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) as part of Department of Education (DoE) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the exhibition of State Significant Development Application SSD-10333 for the extension of the Newstan Mine, located at Miller Road, Fassifern.

SINSW understands that SSD-10333 seeks consent for the following:

- Extension of mine operations at the site for an additional 15 years.
- Extract an additional 25.9 million tonnes of Coal at the site.
- Construction of new ancillary infrastructure at both the existing Awaba and Newstan Colliery sites; and
- Associated mine closure and rehabilitation activities to meet future land use needs.

SINSW notes that the existing Fassifern Public School is located approximately 1km east of the Newstan Colliery Surface Site and approximately 5.9km's north-east of the West Borehole Seam area, which is the subject of the above application. The Western Borehole area is also in proximity to Awaba and Dora Creek Public Schools, which are located approximately 9.8km's north-west and 6.5kms south-west of the development site, respectively (refer Figure 1, below). Both Fassifern and Awaba schools are included within the Project Application Area (as per Figure 1-1 of the EIS).

SINSW has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents for SSD-10333 and has identified the following matters for consideration.

**Subsidence Effects**

The Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessment exhibited with the EIS (prepared by MSEC) states that there is potential for 'far-field horizontal movements' to occur outside of the proposed mining area. The report notes that based on previous modelling from the southern and western coal fields, these impacts could be felt up to 1km outside the mining area. Further, there is potential



for properties south of the Western Borehole Seam area to experience minor vertical subsidence impacts.

SINSW notes that subsidence may also alter catchment hydrology in the vicinity of the site, which may in turn impact local flood characteristics.

Whilst the identified schools fall outside the above parameters, SINSW requests that ongoing monitoring and mitigation measures be incorporated into any future consent for the proposed development to ensure the proposal does not compromise the structural integrity or flood conditions of any existing school in the vicinity of the site.

#### Noise and Vibration

The EIS and associated Noise Impact Assessment state that the project has potential to result in noise and vibration impacts associated with construction and operation of new surface facilities at the Awaba Colliery as well as increased road traffic. SINSW notes that none of the above school sites are identified as sensitive receptors for the purposes of the acoustic assessment.

Notwithstanding this, any ongoing noise and vibration disruptions have the potential to create impacts on student learning outcomes. SINSW therefore requests that high impact works and activities should, where possible, be undertaken outside of school hours.

SINSW also requests that the above public schools be notified at least one week in advance of activities or works that could cause considerable noise and/or vibration impacts. This will ensure surrounding schools can appropriately respond and adjust operational procedures as required.

Should ongoing noise or vibration impacts cause concern to the identified schools, it is requested that appropriate monitoring and mitigation measures be required to be undertaken by the Applicant.

#### Air Quality

The Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment (prepared by SLR) states that as the majority of the project activities are proposed to occur in the vicinity of Awaba Colliery Surface Site, only sensitive receptors in the vicinity of this area have been assessed. The closest sensitive receptor to the existing Awaba Public School is 'Receptor R2', which is located at 15 Evans Street, Awaba (approximately 600m south-west of the schools site).

The report concludes that some pollutant concentrations have the potential to exceed the relevant air quality criteria at the identified receptors during the construction and operation of the development. Further, the Wind Speed and Direction Study undertaken for the project notes a high frequency of winds from the south-west, which may exacerbate the impact of any air emissions on the nearby Awaba Public School.



Notwithstanding the above, SINSW acknowledges the reports comments that the air quality results are largely due to the existing air quality of the region, which is impacted by a range of other contributing sources. SINSW notes that other pollutants such as dust, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and odour stemming from the proposal fall below the relevant environmental criteria.

SINSW requests that a condition be placed on the development consent (if approved) requiring the Applicant to undertake air quality monitoring at the identified receivers prior to, and following commencement of operations of the proposal. This should be repeated at six-month intervals within a two-year period to confirm whether air quality has been impacted by the proposal. Subject to the survey findings, the Applicant (as required by the reporting results) should undertake appropriate action.

### Transport and Access

The Traffic and Transport Assessment (prepared by EMM) states that construction and operational traffic movements stemming from the proposal will only result in 'marginal changes' to the transport network surrounding the subject site. However, there is potential for traffic impacts from the development to be felt by Fassifern Public School as a result of the schools frontage to Miller Road. Additionally, any increase in traffic volumes on Wakefield Road may also affect access to an additional school; Wakefield School, a special school accessed via School Road to the north-west of the Newstan Colliery.

SINSW notes the following relevant matters in relation to the proposed traffic impacts:

- Construction traffic movements will be limited to the Awaba Colliery site. Heavy vehicle access routes for the project show that trucks will access the site via Wilton and Wangee Road to avoid the Awaba Township.
- An additional 20 vehicle movements are projected for Cessnock Road during the construction stages of the development.
- An additional 468 light vehicle movements a day are expected in the operational stages of the project at the Newstan Colliery site. 28% of these movements will be distributed via Miller Road and Fassifern Road, 44% will be distributed via Miller and Macquarie Road and 28% will be via Miller and Wakefield Roads (north).
- Operational traffic volumes on Wakefield Road require a change to this roads categorisation under the Ausroad Design Standards.

In relation to the above, the assessment reports concludes that:

- The proposed operational traffic will not exceed what was modelled and approved under the earlier development consent for the Northern Coal Logistics Project (SSD-5145).
- The existing width of Wakefield road is sufficient to meet the increased demand as per the Ausroad Design Standards.



- It is predicted that there will be no changes to the Level of Service (LOS) for any key intersections around the Awamba or Newstan Colliery sites.

SINSW requests that an optimal traffic outcome would include the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan (or an amendment to any existing Management Plan) to address the construction and operational stages of the development. This will ensure that the proposal will not compromise school access or student safety during peak periods. SINSW recommends that this measure be placed on the SSD-1033 development consent (if approved).

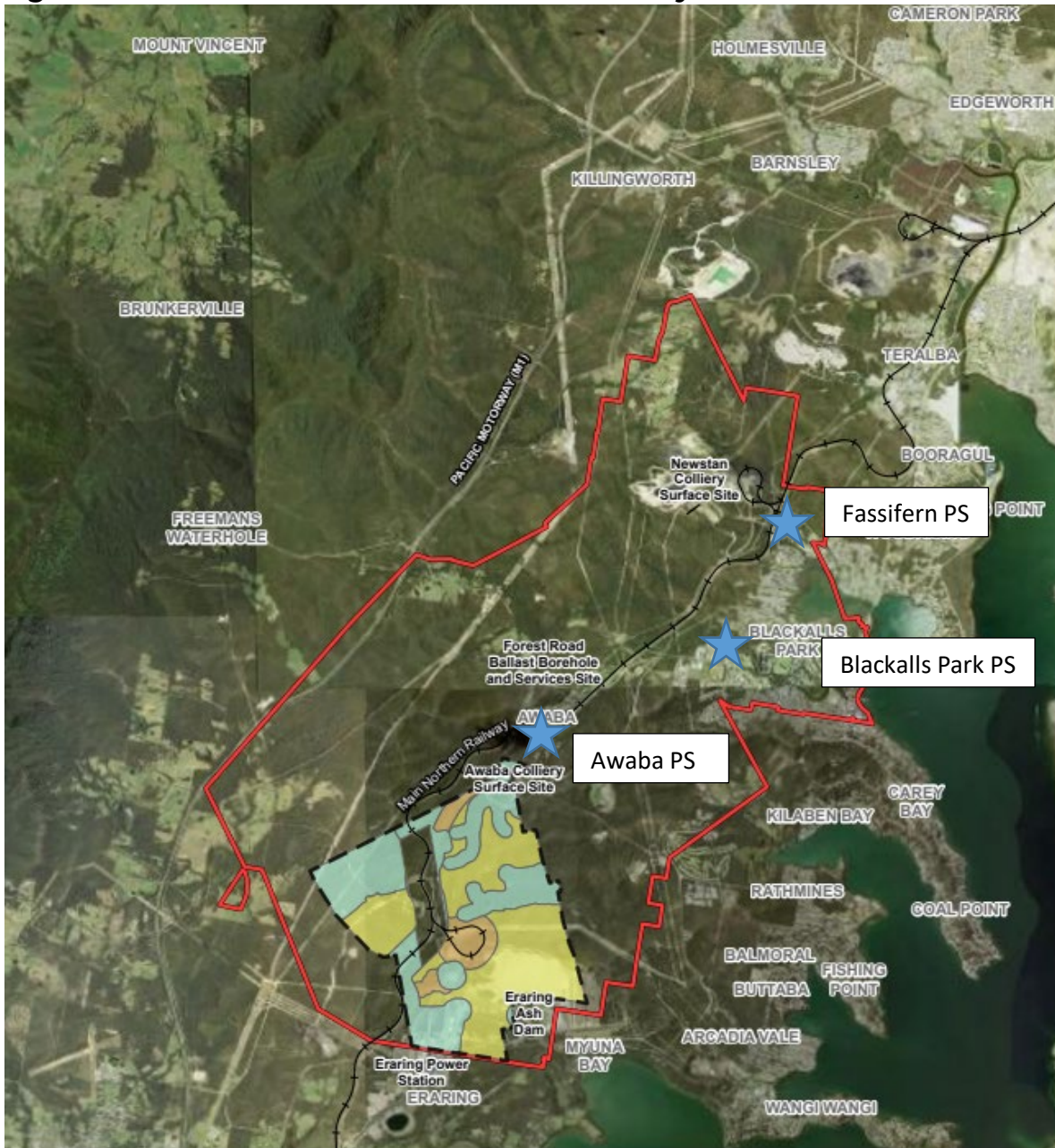
Should you require further information about this submission or wish to consult with SINSW, please contact the SINSW Statutory Planning team at [StatutoryPlanning@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:StatutoryPlanning@det.nsw.edu.au)

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Towers".

Paul Towers  
**Executive Director - Infrastructure Planning**

**Figure 1: Newstan Mine Extension – Site Boundary**



Source: Prepared by GHD (2020) Conceptual Project Layout – SSD-10333



Existing School Sites



Project Application Area