

westlakewrens@gmail.com

Lake Macquarie, NSW 2283

22 October 2018

RE : DA 73-11-98 Newstan Colliery Mod 8

To Whom It May Concern

Five Bays Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (Five Bays SNG) is a part of Lake Macquarie City Council's Sustainable Neighbourhood Program. <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/five-bays.html>

One of the groups' goals is to protect and care for our natural environment. One of our projects is advocating for Awaba Conservation Area, which has been waiting to be formalised since 1972.

Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) has purchased a part of the proposed Conservation Area, and designated the parcel of land as Awaba Biodiversity Conservation Area, Lot 463 DP1138964 304 Wilton Road.

Modification 8 is within the boundaries of the proposed Awaba Conservation Area and crosses the south- western corner of the Awaba Biodiversity Conservation Area (ABCA). LMCC has identified ABCA as an important and significant biodiversity high value area. Please find the ABCA Plan of Management in the attachments. On Page 13 of the Environmental Assessment, land ownership is incorrect for Lot 463 DP1138964. I have notified Centennial Newstan of my observations. Ms Melissa Anderson, from planning was included into the correspondence. Mr Iain Hornshaw of Centennial Coal, assures me this has been corrected, supplying the appropriate map.

Concerns

On page 11, figure 2-4, projected fault lines and water courses are shown. Kilaben Creek and a projected fault line is in the ABCA. While these are first workings, Five Bays SNG requests that Centennial Coal works closely with LMCC in ensuring the integrity of Kilaben Creek and surrounding ecosystems.

Page 37 discusses Aboriginal community engagement and in 2010 Centennial Coal sent requests to particular Registered Aboriginal Parties. Since 2010, it is my understanding that with Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) as had a change of executive management at least three times in the last two years. It is also my understanding that Biraban LALC has put forward land claims within the Awaba Conservation Area. Five Bays SNG request that Centennial Coal approach the new CEO of Biraban LALC to renew the appropriate channels of dialogue and communications.

As the Chair of Five Bays Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, I appreciate the opportunity to make comment on this modification application. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of Centennial Coal working closer with LMCC, ensuring the integrity of water ways and the high value bushland that exists within the proposed first workings area.

Yours sincerely

Robyn Charlton

Chair

Five Bays Sustainable Neighbourhood Group.