

Warners Bay Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group



E: WarnersBaySNG@gmail.com

W: <http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/warners-bay-area.html>

Submission to the Newstan Mine Extension Project Proposal

Mark Howells - Secretary

18/10/2021

To whom it may concern,

I write on behalf of the Warners Bay Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (WBSNG) who object to the Newstan Mine Extension Project (SSD-10333) in its current form. We find the project has a number of issues but would like to draw particular attention to the following;

Eraring Ash Dam

The Eraring Ash Dam itself occupies approximately 150ha^[1] and is unlined^[2], containing an estimated 40 million tonnes of ash waste^[3] which contains heavy metals including selenium, lead and arsenic^[4].

Groundwater and surface water monitoring indicated that the waste from the Eraring Ash Dam is seeping into Lake Macquarie via the sub-catchments of Muddy Lake, Myuna Bay and Whiteheads Lagoon^[5].

Additionally, in 2019 the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre was closed due to the risk posed to the community if the dam wall were to collapse or be compromised due to an earthquake^[6].

We have significant concerns about this project going ahead in its current form, potentially compromising the integrity of the dam or contaminating waterways further.

Awaba Conservation Area

The majority of the area within this proposed project is located within the proposed Awaba Conservation Area. The Awaba Conservation Area is mostly located on Crown Land and is a vital wildlife corridor between the Watagans and Lake Macquarie. The importance of this land has been acknowledged since 1972 by the National Trust of Australia and subsequently by Lake Macquarie City Council in 1995 and then the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in 2009^[7].

We have serious concerns regarding how the areas that are designated for full extraction will impact the biodiversity within the Awaba Conservation Area as well as other areas potentially impacted.

1 HCEC 2020 Out of the Ashes II, pg 56

2 GHD 2020 Report for Centennial Newstan Pty Ltd - Newstan Mine Extension Project pg. 126

3 HCEC 2020 Out of the Ashes II : Summary of Key Findings pg 3

4 Ibid

5 Ibid

6 MSEC 2020 SUBSIDENCE PREDICTIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR NEWSTAN COLLIERY 201 TO 218 PANELS pg 7

7 Charlton R 2015 Awaba Conservation Area

8 GHD 2020 pg.185

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Additional Concerns

We kindly request that the native vegetation at the Awaba Colliery are not cleared. Part of this land to be cleared consists of 0/15ha of PCT 1718 (Swamp Mahogany - Glax-leaved Paperboard swamp forest on coastal lowlands of the Central Coast) [13] which is an endangered ecological community. The Warners Bay Area SNG requests that this EEC is left as is and worked around.

In addition, we would like all efforts to be made to leave hollow-bearing trees intact and/or a major nesting box program to be implemented in the area.

References -

1. Charlton R: 2015 Awaba Conservation Area - <https://conservewestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area> Cited 10 October 2021
2. GHD: 2020 Report for Centennial Newstan Pty Ltd - Newstan Mine Extension Project, 2220261
3. HCEC: 2020 Out of the Ashes II
4. MSEC: 2020 Report: SUBSIDENCE PREDICTIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS FOR NEWSTAN COLLIERY 201 TO 218 PANELS

1 HCEC 2020 Out of the Ashes II, pg 56

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