

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

Austar Coal Mine Closure Planning and Execution

Current status

Following the cessation of coal mining operations in March 2020, Austar is now transitioning through closure, into relinquishment and future land use.



For over 100 years, Austar has been a proud part of the Cessnock community, contributing to local jobs, economic growth, and regional development.

We take great pride in Austar's longstanding partnership with the community and are committed to creating a lasting legacy through our responsible closure and rehabilitation efforts.

Our focus on responsible closure and rehabilitation reflects our commitment to creating positive possibilities for future use of the site.



Closure planning

Austar completed a Pre-Feasibility Study for mine closure in September 2023, identifying preferred final land use options, conceptual landform designs, and a demolition strategy, all with careful consideration of heritage values.

In March 2024, Austar commenced the Feasibility Study to validate the preferred rehabilitation and closure options while refining the final landform design. This study includes a comprehensive site investigation program involving drilling and test pitting to assess geochemistry, geotechnical conditions, potential contamination, subsidence impacts, mine sealing requirements, and surface water and landform design.

To date, physical closure activities have included:

- Recovery of underground equipment, including machinery, cabling, and conveyors;
- Sealing of the underground mine; and
- Decommissioning of Coal Handling and Preparation Plant and mining infrastructure in preparation for demolition works.

Ongoing closure planning has focused on progressing studies to inform key aspects such as:

- Rehabilitation and final landform design;
- Future land use planning;
- Surface and groundwater management;
- Ecological and rehabilitation management; and
- Heritage values and potential impacts.

On-site activity

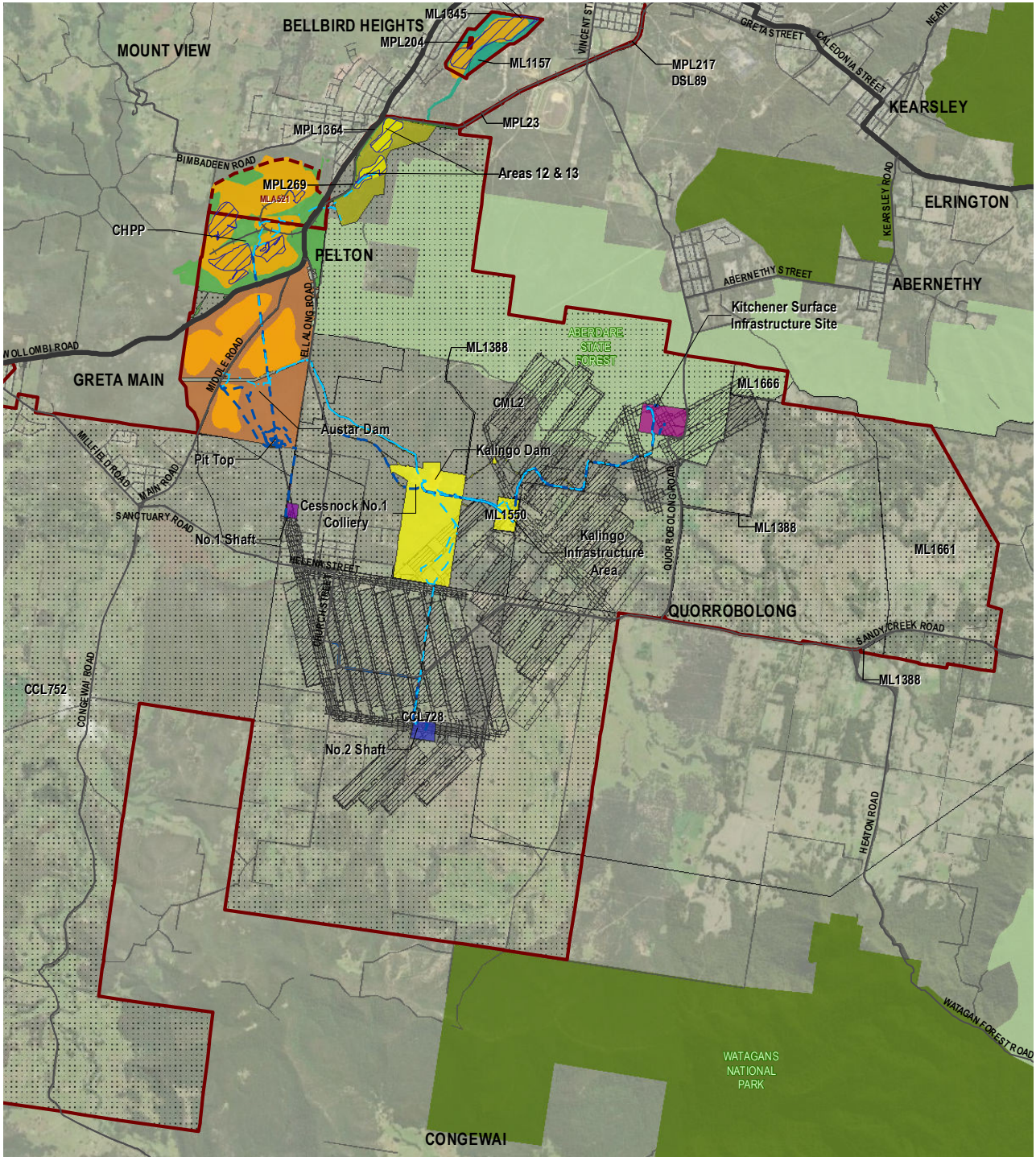
Stage 1 demolition works are soon to commence across the site, with initial mobilisation and site setup occurring in March.

The Kalingo Infrastructure Area and the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant site, including the conveyor to the Austar Pit Top Facilities will be the first infrastructure sites to commence demolition, with works including demolition of infrastructure (excluding heritage items), removal of services such as power, and removal of waste in accordance with the Waste Management Plan. See figure 1 on page 3.

Demolition at Kalingo Infrastructure Area is expected to take approximately eight weeks and all demolition works will be undertaken during daylight hours (7am to 6pm) Monday to Friday.



Austar Coal Mine Closure management areas



(Figure. 1)

Key

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colliery Holding Boundary Mining Lease Application Boundary Relevant Mining Titles Major Road Minor Road Railway 	<p>Water Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Pipelines - Clean (Potable or RO Permeate) Water Pipelines - Dewater (Mine Water or Sediment Laden) Longwall Mining Areas Extraction Current REA Disturbance REAs 12 and 13 Approved Reject Emplacement Areas 	<p>CMA Boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMA 1 - Austar Pit Top Facilities CMA 2 - Pelton CHPP CMA 3 - No.1 Shaft CMA 4 - No.2 Shaft CMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area CMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site CMA 7 - Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area CMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13 CMA 9 - Other State Forest National Park
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Community support

Since the commencement of Austar’s Community Support Program in 2017, **a total of \$173,907 has been contributed to the Cessnock community**. The program funds local projects that drive positive change across education, environmental sustainability, healthcare, infrastructure, arts and Cultural Heritage.

Austar is committed to the ongoing support of initiatives that make a meaningful impact on the lives of local residents and encourages community organisations and groups to apply for funding.



Contact us

Our website houses key documents related to the site and details on the steps we are taking to implement the full closure plan. You can also contact us directly through our online contact form.

We welcome any questions and encourage you to reach out. As we continue through the closure process, **we remain committed to keeping the local community informed** by providing regular updates and sharing relevant information as it becomes available.



To get in touch with our team or to access further information visit www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/austar/

