

SPRING 2026

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Austar Mine Closure Project

Austar is undertaking mine closure planning and rehabilitation works to safely close the site and progressively restore the land to a safe, stable and non-polluting condition that supports future post-mining land-use opportunities.

Community Consultative Committee

Expressions of Interest for Community Consultative Committee. Applications close 5pm, 11 September 2026

Austar is seeking expressions of interest from community members interested in joining the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). The CCC provides a forum for community members, local government, stakeholders and Austar representatives to share information, discuss site activities and provide feedback as we move through the mine closure process. The committee plays an important role in supporting open communication and ensuring community perspectives are heard.

Community members and local stakeholders interested in joining the committee are encouraged to contact Independent Chair **Lisa Andrews** on **0401 609 693** or email **austar.feedback@yancoal.com.au** for further information.

Our team recently visited nearby residents to discuss upcoming works. Along the way, we were warmly welcomed by this friendly local.



Our Community Support Program

Portal opens from 17 August to 25 September

Supporting Local Communities

Austar's Community Support Program continues to provide funding for local initiatives that deliver positive outcomes across our region.

Applications are now open for the 2027 Community Support Program, which provides financial assistance to eligible not-for-profit organisations working in the areas of health, community, environment, culture and arts, and education and training. The program supports projects and initiatives that strengthen local communities and create lasting benefits for the people of the Cessnock area.

We are proud to continue supporting local organisations through this program and encourage community groups with projects that make a positive difference to apply.

Applications close on **25 September 2026**. For more information and to apply, visit the Austar (closed) webpage on the Yancoal website.



What's happened on site?

Since mining operations ceased, Austar has completed significant demolition and decommissioning works across the site. Environmental investigations, land validation, borehole rehabilitation planning and progressive rehabilitation activities are also continuing as part of the broader closure program.

Austar is continuing its mine closure planning that includes a range of technical studies, including final landform design, surface water management, groundwater assessments, land stability, rehabilitation planning and long-term environmental management. The outcomes of these studies will support future design decisions and mine closure works.

Thank You, Ellalong Residents

Austar would like to thank Ellalong residents for their ongoing cooperation in helping maintain the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) behind properties along Hunter Street.

The APZ is maintained through regular slashing, vegetation management and bushfire preparedness activities to help reduce fuel loads and support safe access for the NSW Rural Fire Service and other emergency responders during bushfire events.

As part of Austar's ongoing land management program, environmental inspections and planning activities have recently been undertaken to support a proposed hazard reduction burn within the APZ. These activities form part of Austar's commitment to community safety and responsible land management.

The cooperation of residents plays an important role in helping ensure the APZ remains effective, accessible and ready to support emergency response activities when required.

Community safety remains a priority throughout Austar's closure and rehabilitation program, and Austar will continue to undertake land management activities that support bushfire preparedness and help protect neighbouring properties.

Austar values ongoing engagement with regulators, Cessnock City Council, neighbouring landholders, community members and other stakeholders throughout the closure process and will continue to provide updates as planning and rehabilitation activities progress.

Authorisation of Future Closure Activities

As Austar continues to progress to the next phase of mine closure, it will be preparing an application to modify the development consent for the mine. The proposed modification is intended to ensure approvals appropriately address the remaining closure and rehabilitation activities and align with contemporary regulatory requirements.



How we're keeping you informed

Our updates are shared via the Yancoale website, regular e-newsletters and letterbox drops, while our online contact form and dedicated email (austar.feedback@yancoal.com.au) provide easy channels for questions and feedback.



If you'd like to stay informed about the progress of mine closure, rehabilitation efforts and the history of the site, we invite you to join our mailing list via scanning the QR code.

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