



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Community Recognition Statement**

14 October 2020

**CATHY STUART AND JAN WILLIAMS**

**Ms SONIA HORNER ( Wallsend ) :**

We all know of businesses and organisations have had to adapt and change due to COVID-19.

Jan Williams and Cathy Stuart, both of Lambton, have had to alter the way that Upcycle Newcastle functions due to COVID-19 restrictions. Upcycle Newcastle's purpose is to educate and inspire people to reduce clothing waste and reduce purchases of new products by reusing, repairing and purposing old textiles and clothing.

Cathy originally wanted to create a sustainable yet positive way to keep items out of landfill, and be able to recycle and reuse items creatively. The result was Upcycle Newcastle. Upcycle Newcastle normally holds workshops and events, goes into schools to show children how to make rag rugs out of old T-shirts and they also hire out their equipment and space for \$3 an hour.

During COVID-19, Upcycle Newcastle was transformed into a full time mask factory, with Cathy and Jan helping to produce 500 – 600 masks per week for the community, and working 10-12 hours a day, six to seven days a week.

I applaud you Cathy and Jan, for your passion and creativeness.

Thank you for doing your part to reduce waste.