

Final Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
via video/teleconference
Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Cr Karen Hutchinson	MidCoast Council	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Mike Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd		

Guests:

Mathew Bell, Senior Ecologist MidCoast Council
Lyndie Hepple, Community Development Coordinator

1. Site Tour

No site tour was scheduled for this meeting due to Covid restrictions.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:02am.

Apologies: Nil

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair, approved by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment.

The declarations of the Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11 August 2021 were confirmed.

Moved: Phillip Greenwood; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** Mathew Bell - Senior Ecologist, will present the MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework at the November 2021 meeting. Louise Duff – Catchment Coordinator, will present the Manning River Catchment Management Plan at the February 2022 meeting.

Mr Mathew Bell, Senior Ecologist at MidCoast Council, gave a presentation on the recently developed MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework. A copy of this presentation will be included with these minutes.

Mr Greenwood commended Mr Bell on his presentation and commented that the MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework was a step in the right direction for the various stewardship and biodiversity conservation sites established in the local government area. Mr Greenwood also expressed it was pleasing to see this coordination at a council level rather than the current individual approach. The process via the Biodiversity Conservation Trust can be disjointed and difficult to extract information on individual conservation sites.

Mr Bell informed there had been engagement between the relevant agencies and that council had appointed a Conservation of Private Lands Officer who will assist in engagement with stakeholders and landholders. Mr Plain suggested there would be significant benefit in a combined framework for providing advice and guidance on conservation sites within the MidCoast Council area.

2. **Deferred Action Item:** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment and updated Education Fund account spreadsheet.

Mr Plain advised the actions from the meeting held with Council on 10 February 2021 had now been resolved, with the exception that the updated Education Support Fund spreadsheet had not yet been provided. Ms Hepple advised this was due to be completed.

3. **Annual Action Item:** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.

Ms Hepple presented the 2020/21 MidCoast Council annual financial report on the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions. Mr Plain stated the 2020/21 report was a comprehensive summary of all financial contributions required by the Development Consent. The Committee thanked Ms Hepple for the report. A copy of this report will be included with these minute.

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda. There was no further discussion.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Cullen advised operations continued in Avon North and Stratford East. Backfilling in the BRN pit continued in Q3 2021. The Roseville West pit is currently being used for water storage.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Biodiversity works and rehabilitation planning at SCM for 2022 was discussed, focusing on planting programs and rehabilitation maintenance. Mr Plain indicated that the planning phase had been completed as well as the 2022 work plans for the biodiversity offset planting program. Mr Greenwood asked if the mapping of the proposed planting areas could be provided. Mr Plain suggested this could be distributed with the meeting minutes.

New Action Item 1: SCPL to provide mapping of the proposed biodiversity offset planting areas for 2022.

Mr Lowrey inquired into SCPL conducting a feral cat trapping program and when that would be undertaken. Mr Kirkwood indicated that the scoping for the cat trapping program had been finalised and that the cat trapping program is to be completed by MDP Vertebrate Pest & Land Mgt following the completion of the Spring/Summer weed control works.

Mr Greenwood asked for confirmation on the proposed timing for closures of The Glen Road for blasting activities in Stratford East. Mr Plain advised road closures were required when blasting occurs within 500m of a public road. Mr Plain advised closures of the Glen Road may not be required, depending on how far Stratford East advances towards the south. Road closures would not occur in the near term.

The SMC mine closure strategy was presented and discussed by the committee. Mr Lowrey asked about the progress with Roseville West Pit extension and the expected timeframe for completion. Mr Plain advised that the Roseville West Extension was not included in the mining schedules for the current Mining Operations Plan, which extended to December 2023. SCPL are reviewing the potential timing for the Roseville West Extension and a MOP amendment would be required before this could commence.

Mr Lowrey also enquired about final land uses for rehabilitated land and mine owned land once mining is completed. Mr Plain explained the conceptual post-mining land uses are included in the Environmental Impact Statement. Furthermore, Mr Plain advised that the detailed mine closure planning is currently underway and final land use and land optimisation feasibility is currently being investigated by SCPL.

The status of community complaints was discussed by the Committee.

8. General Business

1. Mr Clarke asked for confirmation of the location of the next CCC meeting. Mr Plain advised the next meeting would be held onsite pending covid restrictions.
2. 2022 proposed Meeting dates:
 - 9:00am on Wednesday 9th February 2022
 - 9:00am on Wednesday 11th May 2022
 - 9:00am on Wednesday 10th August 2022
 - 9:00am on Wednesday 9th November 2022

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 9th February 2022.

The next meeting is intended to be held at the Stratford Mine Site and a site tour will be undertaken.

Meeting closed at 10:30am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide mapping of the proposed biodiversity offset planting areas for 2022.
2. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.



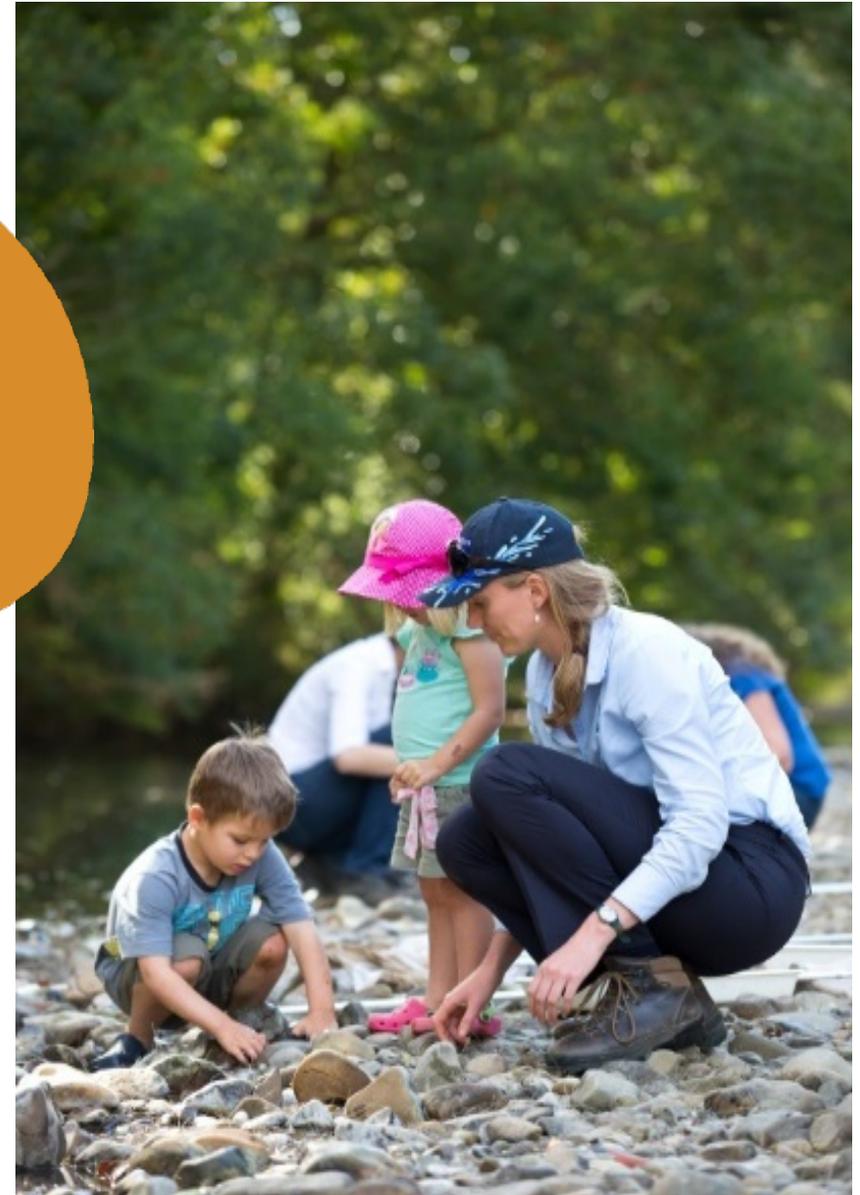
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BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Presentation to Stratford CCC

By Mat Bell (Senior Ecologist)

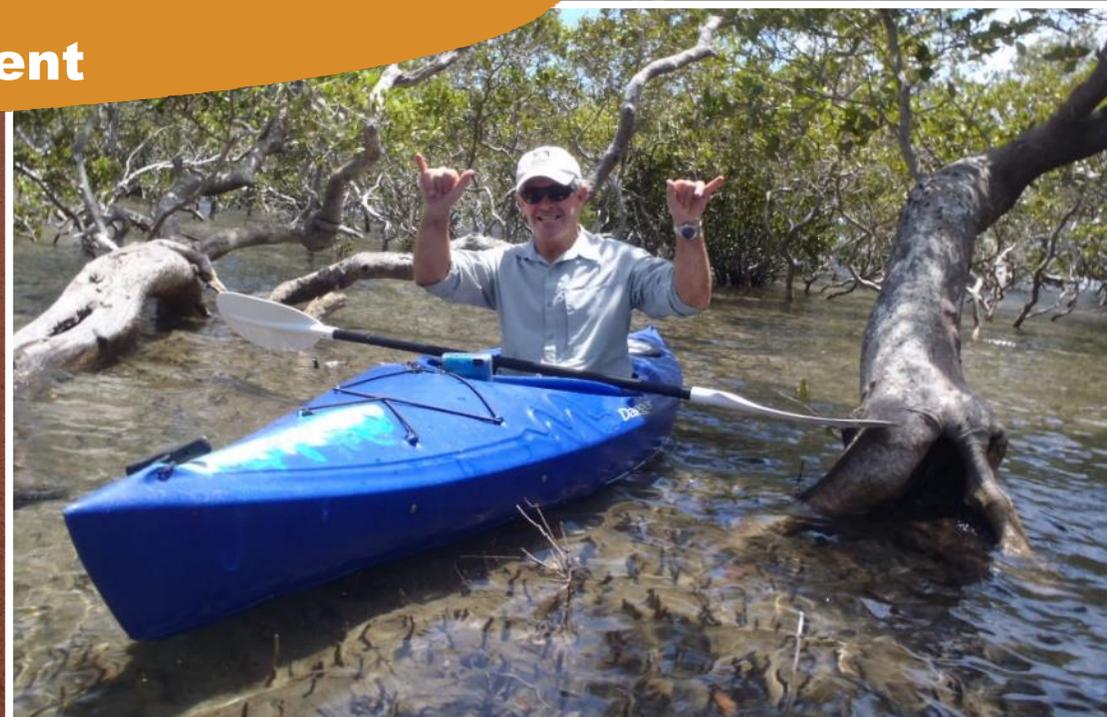
3 November 2021





2030 Shared Vision, Shared Responsibility:

We value ... our environment





Councils' role



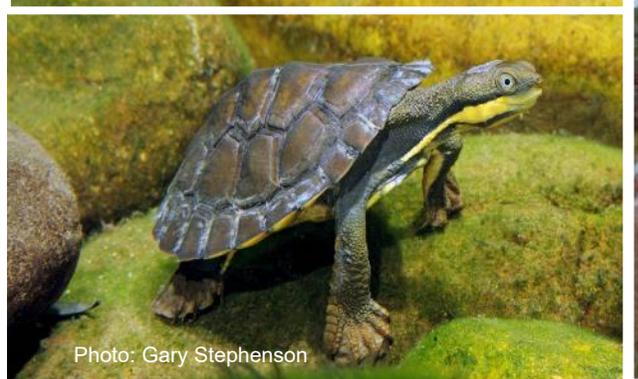


Photo: Gary Stephenson

- Extensive pre-draft targeted and general consultation (98 submissions)
- 6-week formal exhibition and response to submissions (114 submissions)

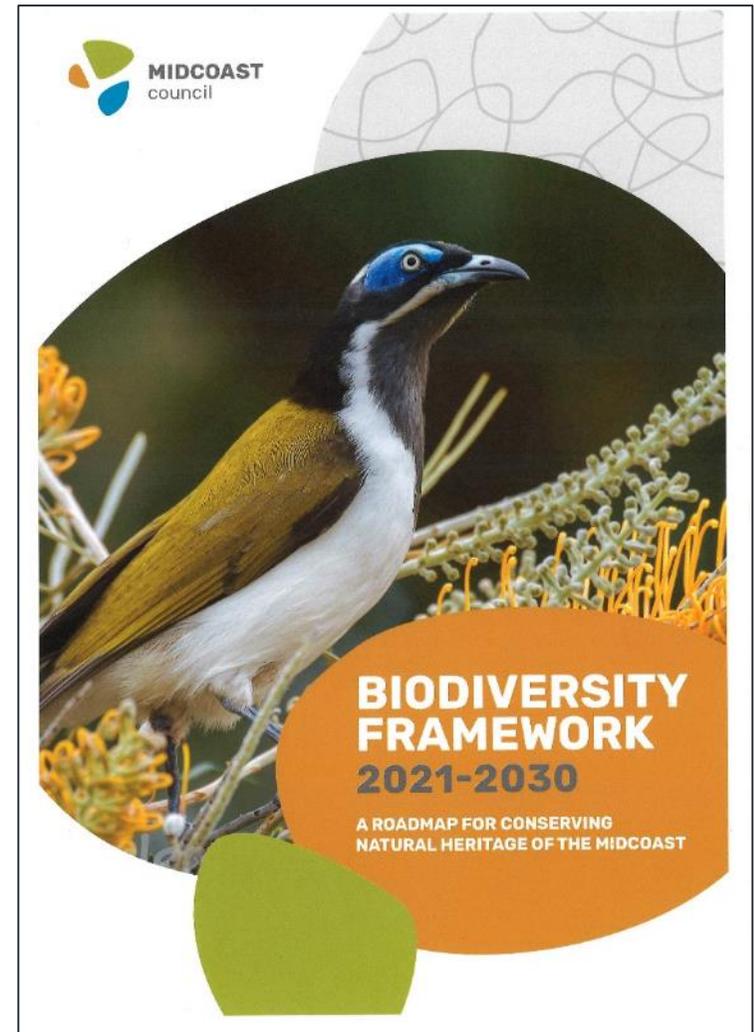


GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Goals:

1. Maintain or improve the status and populations of local native species and the status and integrity of local native ecosystems,
2. Maintain or improve the provision of ecosystem services from natural landscapes, and
3. Maintain or reinstate a biodiversity-rich, resilient and connected natural environment

Twenty-one (21) guiding principles





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THEMES AND ACTIONS

1. ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Community education and participation
- Landholder engagement and incentives
- Partnerships for biodiversity
- Bushcare and Landcare support



2. RESERVES AND CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

- Mapping and zoning of protected areas
- Securing land for reserves
- Private land conservation
- Indigenous Protected Areas



3. LAND MANAGEMENT

- Strategic weed program
- Pest animal management program
- Council bushland reserves management
- Significant roadside areas program
- Fish and wetland habitat programs
- Biodiversity disaster response and resilience
- Nature-based facilities
- Fire management



4. SCIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding flora and fauna species diversity
- Biodiversity research
- Vegetation mapping and monitoring
- Mapping important biodiversity and ecosystem service value lands
- Sub-catchment terrestrial landscape health reports
- Climate change
- Aboriginal cultural and community knowledge



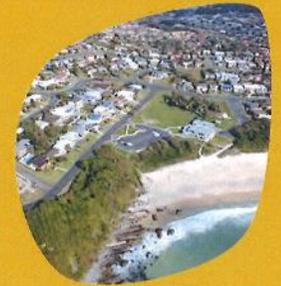
5. STRATEGIC PLANNING & POLICIES

- Local Conservation Action Plans
- Tops to Coast strategy and mapping
- Threatened biodiversity management guidelines
- Coast and catchment management planning



6. LAND USE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Land use planning
- Biodiversity impact assessment (Development)
- Biodiversity impact assessment (Council activities)
- Development incentives for conservation
- Greening Strategy



Priority Species

- Koala (Kiwarrak, Hawks Nest, Crowdy Bay, Hallidays Point and Gloucester)
- Long-nosed potoroo
- Squirrel Glider (Forster population)
- Manning River turtle
- Yellow-bellied Glider (Smiths Lake)
- Grey-crowned Babbler (Gloucester)
- Guthrie's Grevillea
- Manning threatened Red Gums
- Endemic ground orchids
- Grey-headed Flying-fox

Priority Ecological Communities

- Littoral Rainforest
- Lowland Rainforest
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Themeda Grasslands on Coastal Headlands
- Aquatic refugia



1. Genuine partnerships with the community and an understanding of their aspirations and values,
2. Adequate resources including information, funds and personnel
3. A clear and enabling policy framework,
4. Effective relationships with agencies and stakeholders
5. A values-based integrated approach
6. A focus on causes of biodiversity loss rather than symptoms
7. Recognition of potential limitations and a process to predict and overcome limitations and barriers





ACTIONS RELEVANT TO DURALIE / STRATFORD

- Action 1.3.1 Form, foster and maintain effective partnerships across biodiversity objectives and programs,
- Action 2.1.1 Compile and regularly update mapping that identifies all permanently protected lands across the MidCoast (offset sites),
- Action 2.2.1 Zone all existing permanently protected areas to E2 with regular updates to the planning scheme,
- Action 2.3.5 Facilitate private land conservation in priority areas throughout the MidCoast region,
- + Prepare and implement weed and pest strategies, promote ecological and cultural burning, vegetation mapping, conservation action plans and wildlife corridors mapping





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QUESTIONS

