

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 10 November 2016

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Norm Bignell	CCC Member	Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member	Heidi Watters	DP&E
Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
Richard Clarke	CCC Member		
Anthony Berecny	CCC Member		

1. Site Tour

No site tour was undertaken at this meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:00pm. The Chair welcomed Ryan Fenning from MidCoast Council who attended the meeting in place of Lisa Schiff. The Chair also welcomed Heidi Watters from the Department of Planning & Environment. Ms Watters is the newly appointed compliance officer for the Stratford mine site and was attending the meeting as an observer.

Apologies: Lisa Schiff.

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 & Environment and a member of the Mine Subsidence Board.

Mr Bignell declared he was currently in negotiations with Yancoal and offered to resign from the Stratford CCC if this presented a conflict of interest. The Chair advised it was not necessary to resign and the declaration was sufficient. The declaration was accepted by the committee and Mr Bignell will continue as a member.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2016 were confirmed.

Moved: Philip Greenwood; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** SCPL to arrange inspection of potential broad leaf paspalum infestation and a formal identification from the local weeds officer including advice on control measures.

Mr Plain advised a site inspection had been undertaken with the Gloucester Shire weeds officer where the broad leaf paspalum was identified. The weed was identified in isolated locations in the

132kV powerline corridor, access tracks and a boundary fence. A contractor was engaged to spraying all areas where the weed was identified.

2. **Deferred Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide a short presentation on interpreting noise graphs. Defer until operations recommence.

Deferred.

3. **Deferred Action Item 2:** SCPL to include new relevant sections in the CCC presentation when the Environmental Management Plans are updated for the Stratford Extension Project

Deferred.

6. Correspondence

In:

- 24/5/16 email & letter from SCPL (MJ) advising on SEP modification
- 29/5/16 & 2/6/16 emails from G Smith on SEP modification
- 31/5/16 & 2/6/16 letter & email response from SCPL (MJ)

Out:

- 13/5/16 email information from PG on broad leaf paspalum to CCC
- 24/5/16 email letter from SCPL (MP) to CCC members
- 30/5/16 email acknowledgement to G Smith
- 30/5/16 forward G Smith email to SCPL (MJ)
- 2/6/16 forward SCPL response to G Smith
- 2/6/16 forward G Smith correspondence and SCPL responses to CCC
- 3/6/16 email acknowledgement to G Smith

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: SCPL advised no operations have occurred with the exception of minor reclaim from the co-disposal area. The CHPP is continuing to receive and process Duralie ROM coal.
2. Environmental Projects/Activities including monitoring and community engagement: (refer to presentation for further detail). Items discussed by exception:
 - a. MR Lowrey advised he had observed dust from the Stratford waste emplacements on 5th November during high winds. SCPL confirmed there was a strong SW change on this day and advised they would follow-up the monitoring results.
 - b. Mr Plain provided information on the results from the wild dog control program on Yancoal properties. 13 dogs and foxes have been caught in the first 3 weeks of the program.
 - c. The committee discussed the proposed back burning on Yancoal owned properties and the burn plan prepared by Gloucester RFS. Mr Plain advised SCPL has continued to liaise with the RFS to undertake the burns when conditions were suitable, however despite these efforts no burns had been undertaken. Mr Clarke suggested Yancoal should continue to graze cattle on all properties where possible to reduce fuel load.
 - d. Mr Greenwood asked about sulfur levels in ROM coals which had recently been raised through the Duralie CCC. Mr Cullen provide information on coal qualities including the

varying nature of sulfur levels within the Weismantel and Clareval seams at Duralie. Areas of high sulfur were previously identified in the southern extent of the Clareval pit which was currently being mined and it was expected to be removed within 3 weeks. Mr Greenwood asked if this was expected to lead to any changes in the reject material and water quality in the Stratford Main Pit. Mr Plain advised the total volume of the higher sulfur coal was minor compared to the total reject volume and no change in the management of the rejects had been required in regard to liming rates. This was confirmed by the ongoing monitoring results for pH and sulphate.

- e. The Chair advised the revised CCC Guidelines had not yet been published by the Department of Planning & Environment.
- f. Mr Bignell asked how the evaporative sprays which have been setup near the Stratford Main Pit are managed. Mr Plain advised the two units had previously been operating at Duralie and had been relocated to the western side of the Stratford Main Pit. The sprays are located in the mine water catchment and the water which doesn't evaporate is recycled through the main pit. The evaporative fans currently operate during day-time hours and only under certain weather conditions. Mr Clarke asked what the efficiency of the evaporative sprays was and indicated it was disappointing that good science couldn't prevail for a more beneficial use such as reverse osmosis treatment and discharge to waterways. Mr Plain reiterated the restrictions linked to the Development Consent and indicated the average evaporative efficiency based on trials at Duralie is approximately 40-50%.

8. General Business

1. Mr Bignell advised he had identified an open borehole which had been missed during the recent program to rehabilitate these holes. Mr Plain advised he would contact Mr Bignell directly and arrange work on the borehole.

New Action Item 1: SCPL to contact Mr Bignell and arrange rehabilitation of an open borehole.

2. SCPL provided an update on the modification to the SEP Development Consent to allow processing of Rocky Hill ROM coal at the Stratford CHPP. Discussion continued regarding the haul road design, road crossings and private property access. SCPL advised they would prepare responses to all public submissions and these would be provided to DP&E.
3. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2017 provided by the Chair :
 - 4th May 2017, TBC
 - 16th November 2017

No further business

The Chair thanked the committee members for their ongoing contribution to the Stratford CCC during 2016 and wished the committee and their families a Merry Christmas. The committee reciprocated their thanks to the Chair.

Next Meeting date: 4th May 2017 at Stratford Mine site at 1:00pm. *To be confirmed.*

Meeting closed at 2:10pm.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL to contact Mr Bignell and arrange rehabilitation of an open borehole.
2. ***Deferred Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide a short presentation on interpreting noise graphs. Defer until operations recommence.
3. ***Deferred Action Item 2:*** SCPL to include new relevant sections in the CCC presentation when the Environmental Management Plans are updated for the Stratford Extension Project