

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 4 May 2017

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Norm Bignell	CCC Member		
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member		
Richard Clarke	CCC Member		
Anthony Berecny	CCC Member		

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken at 1:10pm prior to the start of the meeting. The areas inspected included the rehabilitated western codisposal area, the Stratford Main Pit and reject emplacement area.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:40pm.

Apologies: Lisa Schiff (MCC), Kevin Lowrey, John Cullen (SCPL).

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.

The Chair advised the revised guidelines for Community Consultative Committees had been released by the Department of Planning & Environment and provided a summary of the relevant changes. The Chair suggested maintaining the function for confirming the minutes of previous meetings which had been removed from the CCC guidelines. This was supported by the committee.

The Chair provided "Code of Conduct" forms and "Declaration of Pecuniary/Non-pecuniary Interests" forms to be signed by the Stratford CCC members.

Mr Clarke asked what would be considered confidential information in the context of the CCC guidelines. The Chair advised information may be specifically requested to remain confidential within the CCC and would not be for further discussion with other stakeholders, however these circumstances would be uncommon.

Mr Bignell declared his leasing of Yancoal property as a pecuniary interest. The Chair advised any changes to the CCC member's pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests should be included on the relevant form and signed.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 10th November 2016 were confirmed.

Moved: Philip Greenwood; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

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

Mr Bignell advised he had inspected the location of the bore hole with Mr Plain. Mr Plain advised a contractor had been engaged to undertake the grouting of the borehole and this would commence when ground conditions are suitable.

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

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda. There was no further discussion regarding the correspondence.

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 during the previous six months. The CHPP is continuing to receive and process Duralie ROM coal.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (refer to CCC presentation for further detail). Items discussed by exception:
 - a. The Stratford Mining Complex Annual Review 2016 was provided to the committee members. The Chair advised one administrative non-compliance was recorded in the Annual Review.

Mr Greenwood suggested since the operations at the mine have reduced the noise monitoring surveys could be coordinated to be undertaken when trains are being loaded and the stockpile dozer is operating. This would provide more credible and useful results. SCPL supported this suggestion and advised the timing of future surveys where possible would be undertaken during CHPP operations.

The Chair highlighted the inclusion of weeds inspections in Section 6.5.3 of the Annual Review and suggested this had been a good outcome for the CCC. Mr Greenwood indicated follow-up spraying of broad leaf paspalum would be required, to which Mr Plain agreed.

Mr Berecny asked if the government proposed changes to the noise criteria would affect new or existing operations. SCPL advised they were aware a draft Industrial Noise Guideline

had been prepared by the EPA for consultation and would replace the NSW Industrial Noise Policy, however this has not been finalised and no further advice has been received on the guideline.

- b. The committee discussed the request for emergency watertake which had been received by SCPL from the RFS on 22 February 2017. Water was taken from the Stratford East Dam for firefighting purposes.
- c. SCPL provided an update on the community programs including the Stratford Coal Education Support Program and advised a presentation was held in March 2017. The committee discussed the funding arrangements for the education program which come from SCPL's consented council contributions. Mr Greenwood asked if there would be value in contacting Council to indicate the committee's ongoing support for the program. The Chair advised a similar request had been discussed by the Duralie Coal CCC in their recent meeting. The Chair had undertaken to write to MidCoast Council advising them of the Education Support Program arrangements and the ongoing support from the CCC. This letter could be provided from both the Stratford and Duralie committees. The Committee supported this action.

Mr Bignell provided some additional background on the establishment of the Education Support Program which started in 1996. The Chair suggested there may be value in inviting Mr John Walton (Chairperson – Education Support Program) to the next meeting to provide an update on the program.

New Action Item 1: *The Chair to write to MidCoast Council advising them of the Education Support Program arrangements and the ongoing support of the Stratford Coal CCC.*

New Action Item 2: *The Chair to invite Mr John Walton to provide an update on the Stratford Coal Education Support Program at the next CCC meeting.*

Mr Clarke advised there had previously been minimal records available of Gloucester Councils spending of Stratford Coal's contributions made to Council for community enhancement works. The intent of the contribution was for the provision of community infrastructure and services generated by the development in the local area and Mr Clarke would not want to see the funds spent elsewhere under the amalgamated MidCoast Council.

- d. SCPL provided an update on Yancoal's partnership with the Clontarf Foundation which provides support for young Aboriginal men in their high school academies across Australia.

Mr Berecny asked if similar support had been considered for a girl's academy. Mr Plain advised a similar foundation had been established and was in its infancy which Yancoal may consider.

8. General Business

1. SCPL provided an update on the Stratford Extension Project (SEP) Modification 1. Both SCPL and Gloucester Resources Ltd are currently preparing responses to the public submissions on the proposals. SCPL also advised there has been no change regarding a decision to commence the SEP and the Project Approval has not been taken up.

2. Mr Bignell asked if the recent announcement that Yancoal is acquiring Coal & Allied would have any impact on Stratford Coal. Mr Plain advised Yancoal was proposing to acquire Rio Tinto's share of Coal & Allied who operate two coal mines in the Hunter Valley. Details regarding the acquisition were expected to be finalised in the second half of 2017. Mr Plain advised the acquisition was unlikely to have any impact on the Stratford and Duralie operations, however the acquisition was seen as a positive for Yancoal.
3. Mr Clarke stated the Stratford Tramway remnants were located near the proposed haul road for the Rocky Hill modification and would need to be considered during construction. Mr Plain advised the tramway had been considered in the cultural heritage assessment for the SEP Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed haul road route does not disturb the tramway remnants however it would be required to be referred to in the Heritage Management Plan should the project be approved.

Some discussion continued regarding historical activities in the local area.

4. SCPL advised a new website has been launched for the Stratford Mining Complex. The website address remains unchanged, www.stratfordcoal.com.au.
5. SCPL provided copies of the full wild dog control report for 2016 and advised a trapping program had commenced for 2017.

No further business

The next meeting was scheduled on 16th November 2017. Mr Greenwood asked if the meeting could be moved forward a week to 9th November 2017. The Chair confirmed it was suitable with the Stratford Committee and advised she would seek the Duralie Committee's comments.

Next Meeting date: *TBC*, proposed 9th November 2017 at Stratford Mine site at 1:00pm.

Meeting closed at 3:07pm.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** *The Chair to write to MidCoast Council advising them of the Education Support Program arrangements and the ongoing support of the Stratford Coal CCC.*
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** *The Chair to invite Mr John Walton to provide an update on the Stratford Coal Education Support Program at the next CCC meeting.*
3. ***Deferred Action Item 1:*** *SCPL to provide a short presentation on interpreting noise graphs. Defer until operations recommence.*
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