

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 9 November 2017

Attendees:

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

Guests:

John Walton Stratford Coal Education Support Fund Chairperson

1. Site Tour

No site tour was undertaken at this meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:05pm.

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 & Environment and a member of the Mine Subsidence Board.

The declarations of the Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4th May 2017 were confirmed.

Moved: Norm Bignell; Seconded: Richard Clarke.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **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.

A letter was prepared by the Chair and sent to MCC. A response was provided by Mr John Turner (MCC) acknowledging the Education Support Program. Mr Turner's reply was provided to the CCC.

2. **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 John Walton attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the Stratford Coal Education Support program.

The Stratford Coal Education Support Fund commenced in 1995 through discussions between Stratford staff and Gloucester Shire Council representatives at the time. Since this time the fund has contributed over \$650,000 to local tertiary students, apprentices and businesses. Funding for the program continues to be sourced under conditions of the Stratford Coal Mine Development Consent and the Duralie Coal Mine Project Approval. The program is facilitated by an independent committee comprising representatives from the Community, Council and the Company.

Mr Walton acknowledged the ongoing value of this program and welcomed the support from Stratford Coal. The CCC discussed the structure and zoning of the Education Support Program and also reiterated their appreciation and support.

Further information on the program is available by contacting either MidCoast Council, Gloucester High School or Stratford Coal directly.

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

Deferred.

4. **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 available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:
 - a. The committee discussed the Stratford noise monitoring report results. The Committee also discussed the changes to the monitoring network which would take effect if the Stratford Extension Project were to commence.
 - b. The Committee discussed the wild dog control activities at Stratford Mine and the surrounding properties. Mr Greenwood asked if consideration was given to the control of other feral species to ensure balanced populations dynamics. Mr Plain advised a feral animal monitoring program had been undertaken in April 2017 which indicated whilst other feral species are present the wild dogs and foxes are considered the greatest threat to agriculture and native ecosystems in the Gloucester Basin. Cr Hutchinson commented on ongoing stock losses and issues caused by wild dogs. The Committee discussed the role of LLS and their assistance to private land holders.
 - c. The committee discussed the community complaints and the community engagement activities.

8. General Business

1. Mr May addressed the committee on his role with Yancoal as Business Optimisation Manager for the Stratford and Duralie operations. Mr May was previously involved with the Stratford and Duralie operations between 1997 and 2007. Mr May advised SCPL are continuing to consider the opportunity to recommence mining under the approved Stratford Extension Project however this would still require approval from the Yancoal board. If a decision was made by Yancoal to commence mining at Stratford a notification would be required to relevant stakeholders including the CCC.
2. SCPL provided an update on the Stratford Extension Project (SEP) and the Modification currently in progress to allow processing of Rocky Hill ROM coal. Both applications from Stratford Coal and Gloucester Resources Ltd have been referred to the Planning Assessment Commission and a meeting is scheduled on 14 November 2017 in Gloucester.
3. SCPL notified the CCC of its intention to renew the exploration leases held by Stratford Coal.
4. Mr Berecra raised an action from the Rocky Hill CCC regarding research on rehabilitated pastures. This referred to a program undertaken in the Hunter Valley comparing the productivity of native pastures to rehabilitated pastures previously disturbed for mining. The question was raised if similar research would be of value in the Gloucester region. SCPL advised the rehabilitated pastures at Stratford Mine have been in place for 15 to 20 years and successfully grazed under agistment. SCPL didn't believe this type of research would provide much additional value in addition to the information already available. The CCC agreed it was not of interest to pursue this at the current time.

5. Mr Lowrey asked if there was any update on the aggregated lots for agistment. Mr Plain advised the new stockyards were currently being installed and some work was still to be completed. Following this the lots would be taken to market although an exact time was not yet known.

No further business.

The Committee requested if the next meeting could be held in the morning. 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 8th February 2018 at the Stratford Mine Site at 9:00am.

Proposed meeting schedule for 2018:

- 8 February 2018
- 9 August 2018

The Chair thanked the Committee for their ongoing contribution throughout 2017 and wished them a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed at 2:40pm.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

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