

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
via video/teleconferencing
Wednesday 5 August 2020

Attendees:

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

Guests:

Thomas Holz	Yancoal Australia Ltd
Gavin May	Yancoal Australia Ltd

1. Site Tour

No Site Inspection was undertaken at this meeting due to Covid19 restrictions.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:02am.

Apologies: Paul De Szell (MCC), Lyndie Hepple (MCC), 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, 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 6th May 2020 were confirmed.

Moved: Phillip Greenwood; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** Site tour of Stratford East to be scheduled for next CCC Meeting.

Site tour postponed, action item to remain.

New Action Item 1: Site tour of Stratford East to be scheduled for next CCC Meeting.

2. **Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.

SCPL still in the process of GPS survey of all Stratford Biodiversity Offset access tracks.

***New Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.*

3. **Action Item 3:** SCPL to invite a member of the Yancoal Tenements team to attend the August CCC meeting.

Yancoal Tenements Manager, Thomas Holz provided a recap of previously supplied tenements application information sheets on ELA 5910 and ALA74. ELA 5910 and ALA 74 are both applications for prospecting titles, which (pending grant) will only authorise the holder to carry out prospecting operations (not mining activities) and will require Department approval prior to conducting on-ground activities such as drilling.

Mr Holz explained that the purpose of ELA 5910 is the first step in the application process potentially allowing approved mining in the Roseville West Extension to progress. The timeframe for this process is determined by the department, it is not clear how long this will take.

Mr Holz advised the purpose of ALA 74 is to ensure security of tenure by converting ground that is strategically important to the wider Stratford Coal Project to a higher form of tenure. An ALA focuses on studies and data analysis rather than exploration work.

Mr Greenwood stated that he was still puzzled by the rationale of why the Stratford biodiversity offset areas were not excluded from the ALA. Mr Greenwood suggested this would cause reputational impact within the local community. Mr Holz advised it is not uncommon for a biodiversity site to be included and managed “on-lease”, often due to pre-existing leases. This can avoid potential conflicts and provide greater security of tenure. An ALA does not remove any restrictions imposed by a biodiversity security mechanism and these remain in force in perpetuity.

Mr Greenwood stated that the application of this ALA undermines the community’s confidence in that the biodiversity area is held in perpetuity and any approval would highlight conflicting priorities. Mr Holz responded that this is a Departmental issue with the existing process for managing tenements applications under the Mining Act and does cause some frustrations for all parties involved. Mr Plain added that the ALA does not alter the biodiversity offset mechanism. Mr Greenwood responded that while he understood the reasoning behind inclusion of the offset areas in the ALA application, the process has carried a PR cost for Stratford Coal. He suggested that Yancoal should raise the general issue with the Department.

Mr Berecny asked if the exploration leases would also require renewal. Mr Plain advised A311 and A315 were due for renewal and would be processed following ALA74.

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

Mr De Szell and Ms Hepple (MidCoast Council) were unable to attend the CCC meeting. The Chair requested a copy of the annual financial report to be provided prior the November meeting to allow time for the Committee members to review and provide comment at the next meeting.

New Action Item 3: MidCoast Council to provide an annual report prior to the November 2020 CCC meeting, on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.

6. Correspondence

Included in the meeting agenda.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr May provide an update on mining progress and the Stratford Mine. SCPL advised operations continued in Avon North, Roseville West pit and Stratford East. Mr May advised control measures have been implemented to manage risk of Covid-19.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Fenning noted that there had been a strong increase in noise complaints during the last quarter and ask what the complaints related to and what measures SCPL had taken. Mr Plain explained that the increase in noise complaints is primarily due to SCPL now working in all approved mining areas. This is also enhanced during winter and under inversion conditions. Noise monitoring has indicated an increase in noise emissions, although the routine noise monitoring shows this is within the compliance limits and is consistent with the predicted noise emissions. Mr Plain advised the operating crews have been reminded of the required noise mitigation measures. Mr Lowrey asked who sets the time frames for the noise monitoring. Mr Plain explained it is randomised by the noise consultant and also based on their discretion. Mr Lowrey stated that the noise is prominent in the mornings and would like to see more monitoring completed around the time of shift start up. Mr Plain advised this has been undertaken previously and would request the noise consultant to undertake monitoring at the locations with higher predicted noise affectation during the early morning hours.

New Action Item 4: SCPL to request noise monitoring is completed in the early hours of day shift at monitoring sites with higher predicted noise affectation.

Mr Berecry noted that he had noticed some louder than usual blasting noise and vibration on the 28th of May. Mr Plain took this on notice and committed to Mr Kirkwood looking into the blast on that day and responding to Mr Berecry.

New Action Item 5: SCPL to investigate the blast on the 28th of May 2020 and respond to Mr Berecry via email.

Mr Greenwood reiterated that there has been a noticeable increase in complaints and also noted that they had come primarily from the one location. Mr Plain confirmed this to be correct. Mr Plain explained that there had been additional noise monitoring completed and that the EPA had been provided a response in regards to these complaints.

8. General Business

1. MidCoast Council Water Fill Point

Mr Fenning provided an update on the application to the EPA for a water fill point at the Stratford Mining Complex. Mr Fenning explained that the Council officer currently in charge of this project had advised that the water from SCPL would be deemed as a waste product by the EPA and is in the process of getting a licence exemption under the POEO Act. Mr Fenning advised that council is motivated to use the water from Stratford Coal as part of their ongoing roadworks.

Mr Lowrey expressed concern of the traffic flow of the water carts from the water fill point. Mr Lowrey advised that it would be beneficial if uploaded trucks could enter along Bowens Road and exit when loaded via Wheatleys Road. This would act to halve the total number of truck movements past Stratford village and particularly when loaded, reducing the traffic volume and noise emissions. Mr Lowrey suggested it may currently be difficult for the water trucks to navigate to the northerly exit onto Wheatleys Lane. Mr Plain agreed and added that there was additional signage and work to complete the intersection to direct the traffic flow upon approval. Truck flow to and from the water fill point would be managed in accordance with an operational procedure.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Meeting closed at 10:37am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** Site tour of Stratford East to be scheduled for next CCC Meeting.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.
3. ***New Action Item 3:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual report prior to the November 2020 CCC meeting, on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.
4. ***New Action Item 4:*** SCPL to request noise monitoring is completed in the early hours of day shift at monitoring sites with higher predicted noise affectation.
5. ***New Action Item 5:*** SCPL to investigate the blast on the 28th of May 2020 and respond to Mr Berecra via email.
6. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual report each August on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.