

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site and via video/teleconference
Wednesday 4th November 2020

Attendees:

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

Guests: Nil

1. Site Tour

A site inspection was undertaken following the meeting. Due to Covid19 restrictions only four CCC members attending Stratford Mine Site participated in the inspection. Areas inspected included Stratford East, Stratford Main Pit, Avon North and BRN as viewed from the top of the Stratford rehabilitation area.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00am.

Apologies: Cr Karen Hutchinson, Paul De Szell (MCC), Lyndie Hepple (MCC).

The Chair informed the Committee that Mr May has recently retired from Stratford Coal. Mr May passed on his thanks to the CCC members and expressed his appreciation for their contributions and professionalism. Mr Cullen provided an update on Yancoal staff changes including the appointment of a new CEO and COO, who oversee the Stratford Coal operations.

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 5th August 2020 were confirmed.

Moved: Phillip Greenwood; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

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

Mr Greenwood advised there was a particular interest in the Offset 3 and Offset 4 areas south of Glen Rd. Several of these access tracks are required by contract services and emergency services. A map of this area would be useful for long-term access for alternative emergency routes and for bushfire fighting purposes. Mr Plain confirmed a map would be completed and provided to the CCC members.

***New Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.*

3. **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.

Ms Hepple (MCC) provided the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report prior to the November CCC meeting. This was forwarded to the Committee by Mr Plain. Mr Plain advised he had undertaken a review of the report on the Community Enhancement Funding contributions and had provided a response to Ms Hepple and the MCC finance team. Mr Plain advised the information regarding the spending of the Duralie Coal community contributions to Council was accurate and well detailed. Mr Plain advised the information regarding the spending of the Stratford Coal community contributions to Council was not clearly reported and contained some discrepancies. These matters have been raised with MCC and MCC is assisting with a revision of the report.

Mr Plain advised a meeting would be scheduled with MCC to finalise the report and this will be forwarded to Stratford CCC as it becomes available. Mr Lowrey expressed concerns regarding the lack of information on the expenditure of contributions to Council especially for the Stratford area. The CCC acknowledged the importance of accurate and transparent financial reporting.

***New Action Item 2:** Mr Plain to arrange a meeting with MidCoast Council to finalise revisions to the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council and the Education Support Fund.*

4. **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 Plain informed the Committee noise monitoring during August, September and October at sites with higher predicted noise affectation has been completed between 7am to 8am. Mr Plain also advised the noise reports had been delayed due to a review being undertaken by the EPA. The review resulted in the inclusion of additional information regarding the methodology for the calculation of noise emissions extrapolated from intermediate monitoring sites where direct measurement at private properties was not possible. The August, September and October reports will be supplied to the Committee and made available on Stratford Coal website.

MR Lowrey explained that the noise impact is often most significant around 8:30am. Mr Plain advised noise monitoring could be undertaken at rotating times between 7:30am and 9:00am and this would be communicated to the noise consultant.

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

Action completed. Mr Berecny advised the response had been received.

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

Refer to Action Item 3 comments.

6. Correspondence

Included in the meeting agenda.

Additional correspondence:

28/10/20 – MP emailed Stratford Coal Annual Review 2019 to CCC

02/11/20 – LH provide 2019/20 annual financial report to Chair/MP forwarded to CCC.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: SCPL advised operations continued in Avon North, Stratford East and Roseville West pit. BRN operations have recommenced during the quarter. Stratford East Stage 2 clearing has commenced during the quarter.

Mr Clarke commended Stratford Coal on the implementation of Covid-19 protocols.

Mr Greenwood queried the changes in the thermal and coking coal ratios between the end of 2019 and 2020. Mr Cullen advised this was mostly attributed to the particular seams being mined during any month and the targeted coal shipments. Coking coal is produced as a standalone product whilst the thermal coal is generally mixed with other Yancoal sites. Mr Greenwood asked if the coking/thermal ratios could be displayed in CCC presentations.

New Action Item 3: Coking/thermal coal production ratios to be included in the CCC presentations.

2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Greenwood raised concerns regarding the intensity of wild dog control in the context of currently low levels of impact on livestock and indicated that eradication of dingos in the area may lead to an increase in pest species such as foxes, pigs and cats. Mr Berecny added that the LLS is doing a lot of baiting programs in the Waukivory area and asked whether Stratford Coal coordinated programs in conjunction with LLS. Mr Plain confirmed there was communication between Stratford Coal pest control contractors and LLS, however there was no specific coordination of programs. Mr Plain agreed the intensity of control programs and the impact on other species was an important consideration.

Mr Lowrey requested feedback from SCPL regarding lighting complaints and inspection along Crowthers Rd. Mr Cullen advised of changes to lighting plant infrastructure and awareness of

employees setting up mobile lighting plants. Mr Plain advised that inspections for lighting emissions had been undertaken at residences west of Stratford Coal during September which facilitated changes.

Mr Lowrey advised that there has been observable dust emanating in columns from the Stratford East area. Mr Bignell asked if this was possibly from drilling operations. Mr Plain advised this was likely generated by drilling rigs rather than excavators or trucks. Mr Plain committed to following up the concerns with operations.

New Action Item 4: SCPL to investigate and provide feedback on source of dust from Stratford East and controls implemented.

Mr Lowrey mentioned that there had been a complaint that the complainant hadn't been contacted in return. Mr Plain informed the Committee that the complainant had been called back on a single occasion with no answer, although a second call back had not been followed through. Mr Plain informed that a second request had been received from the same complainant and SCPL had now made contact and provided information.

8. General Business

1. Stratford Annual Review 2019

The Stratford Mining Complex Annual Review 2019 has been accepted by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. The Annual Review has now been provided to the CCC and made available on the Stratford Coal website.

2. MidCoast Council Water Fill Point Update

Mr Fenning informed the Committee a draft Resource Recovery Order under the POEO Act had been received from the EPA which included controls and conditions for the use of water from Stratford Coal. Mr Fenning advised this had been sent to Stratford Coal for review and comment.

3. Mr Plain advised the Resource Recovery Order had been received and was being reviewed by the Yancoal legal team. The process involves two components; a Water Reuse Order which imposes conditions on Stratford Coal and a Water Reuse Exemption which imposes conditions on MidCoast Council. Mr Plain advised Yancoal would provide their legal review to Council. The Committee encouraged the completion of this project to future proof the benefits of this water fill point.

New Action Item 5: SCPL to provide a response to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.

4. Exploration Lease Update

Mr Plain provide an update on the status of the Stratford Coal exploration lease applications and renewals.

5. Mr Berecry asked if there was any truth to rumoured upcoming job losses at Stratford Coal. Mr Cullen responded that there were no proposed near-term job losses and Stratford Coal had appointed new employees in the previous 12 months. There would potentially be changes to the contract operators in the next year.

6. Mr Lowrey commented that the delays in posting hard copies of the CCC documents meant the material was being received after the schedule meetings. Mr Lowrey requested a longer lead time to ensure adequate time to review the presentations.

New Action Item 6: CCC hard copy documents to be posted or delivered with sufficient time for Committee members to review before the scheduled meetings.

7. Mr Plain provided a brief update on the Karuah River Catchment improvement works as partially funded through the Duralie Coal development consent conditions. MidCoast Council is continuing to implement the recommendations from the original Karuah River Catchment Management Plan and has several projects underway. Mr Plain suggested that Drew Morris (MCC) could attend the next meeting to provide further information on the projects being implemented across the broader catchment area. The Committee agreed.

New Action Item 7: The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next Stratford CCC meeting.

8. 2021 CCC meeting schedule
10th February, 12th May, 11th August, 10th November.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their ongoing contributions throughout 2020, which has been a difficult year for many. The Chair wished the Committee and their families a Merry Christmas.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 10th February 2021.

Meeting closed at 10:40am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** Mr Plain to arrange a meeting with MidCoast Council to finalise revisions to the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council and the Education Support Fund.
3. ***New Action Item 3:*** Coking/thermal coal production ratios to be included in the CCC presentations.
4. ***New Action Item 4:*** SCPL to investigate and provide feedback on source of dust from Stratford East and controls implemented.
5. ***New Action Item 5:*** SCPL to provide a response to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.
6. ***New Action Item 6:*** CCC hard copy documents to be posted or delivered with sufficient time for Committee members to review before the scheduled meetings.
7. ***New Action Item 7:*** The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next Stratford CCC meeting.
8. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each August on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.