

MINUTES OF THE STRATFORD COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 7 February 2013

Attendees:

CCC Chair: Margaret MacDonald-Hill

Gloucester Shire Council: Cr Jim Henderson

Community Representatives: Kevin Lowrey, Norm Bignell, Richard Clarke, Keith Latham, Anthony Berecry, Philip Greenwood

Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL): Tony Dwyer, Rachael Windrum, Aaron Hagenbach (GCL Consultant), Alarna Bristow, Corrina Merrick (minute taker)

Apologies – Doug Gordon (SCPL)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.46am after a Site Tour, which included a stop at Roseville West Pit, with discussion of mining progress, potential change with the proposed Stratford Extension Project, noise bunding being constructed on haul road as a proactive noise mitigation measure, waste water placement, and type of coal (primarily coking) in the Roseville West pit.

Apologies: Doug Gordon

The Chair advised that the meeting was being recorded. Mr Richard Clarke raised concerns he has about the recording of the meeting. A general discussion was held regarding the recording of the meetings. It was agreed to continue recording meetings if the audio was deleted once minutes were confirmed. The recording could be paused/stopped at the agreement of the CCC. Mr Richard Clarke agreed.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair approved by the Director-General of Planning & Infrastructure, a member of the Mine Subsidence Board, a member of the Minister's Arbitration Panel, and Chair of the Ministerial Committee of AGL (Hunter CCC) and Chair of AGL's Camden Gas Project CCC.

Mr Kevin Lowrey declared that he is President of the local Community Hall Committee which received funding via the Community Support Program.

Mr Anthony Berecry declared that he is Treasurer of the Golf Club which received funding via the Community Support Program.

Mr Richard Clarke declared a change of matters in that he has sold his property to SCPL and will be a tenant for a period of time. Also he is Chairman of the Australian Standard on Demolition of Structures and a member of the New South Wales Government Regulator Forum of Rail Safety Management.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were confirmed. Moved: Cr Jim Henderson. Seconded: Mr Kevin Lowrey.

4. Business arising from Previous Meeting

- Minutes of the Meeting – Discussed potential alignment of Stratford CCC minutes with Duralie CCC minutes being posted on the website. It was agreed that Draft minutes would be sent to Members

within 2 weeks, Members have 2 days to advise the Chair (cc Ms Rachael Windrum) of any proposed changes, inaccuracies or queries, thereafter Draft Minutes are posted on the website until confirmed at the next CCC meeting.

- Mr Keith Latham enquired as to when SCPL was going to start building the noise mitigation around the rail loop which was to be completed in January. SCPL advised that quotations are still being obtained and a Geotech Report has been carried out in relation to the required footings, etc. SCPL are to report back on time frame for completion.
Action Item 1: SCPL to advise CCC of expected date of completion of rail mitigation screen.
- Mr Keith Latham noted in the Annual Review Report that SCPL in future propose to drain the Main Pit into Bowens Road North. Mr Latham questioned how SCPL will handle the control of potentially acid forming material in the pit as the water which is currently in there holds the PH fairly static. SCPL advised that it will not fully drain the Stratford Main Pit. Enough water will be held to serve the purpose of isolating reject waters using the same methodology as is currently used.
- Mr Kevin Lowrey enquired as to whether the noise mitigation around the rail loop would become obsolete in respect of noise mitigation required for the Stratford Extension Project (SEP). SCPL advised that the noise mitigation being installed now would be extended further around the rail loop if the SEP is approved. Mr Lowrey asked whether the noise mitigation panels would then have an earth bunding on the outside. SCPL advised that the use of panels allows less ground disturbance and the ability to have the panels closer to the rail loop.
- Mr Philip Greenwood suggested that, for any future New Projects or Project Approval Modifications, the CCC should try to convene to discuss it, during the time for public comments. The Chair advised she would take this on board.

5. Correspondence

Correspondence in:

- Dated 7 November 2012 – email from Stratford Coal advising of EIS Public Exhibition.
- Dated 13 November 2012 – letter from Stratford Coal enclosing 2012 Annual Review.

Correspondence out:

- Dated 7 November 2012 – forwarded email from Stratford Coal on EIS Exhibition to CCC members.
- Dated 14 November 2012 – email to CCC members attaching Stratford Coal Extension Project EIS Flyer.
- Dated 14 November 2012 – letter from Stratford Coal enclosing EIS, Technical Overview and Flyer information.
- Dated 23 January 2013 – email from the Chair to the CCC advising links to the Annual Review.

6. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

a) Progress at the Mine

SCPL gave a presentation of mining activities and achievements since the last CCC meeting.

b) Environmental Monitoring Performance

- Mr Philip Greenwood commenced discussion on the EC of Avon River during the dry period. General discussion of impacts including natural occurrences (weather, first flush through systems), and other users. Mr Norm Bignell discussed Avon River probes being out the water. Mr Bignell also extended an invitation to the CCC members if they wish to look at the monitor and where it is situated. Mr Jim Henderson enquired whether historic EC results for water monitoring at downstream location (eg Bignell property) could be provided to the CCC. SCPL will consider the request.

Action Item 2: SCPL to consider the request to provide the CCC with historic EC results for water monitoring at a downstream location and advise at next meeting.

- Mr Philip Greenwood queried why Air Quality monitoring reports were PM10 not PM2.5. SCPL advised that there is a period of 12 months of monitoring to determine the air quality trigger level to work to. The monitoring is internal and not compliance monitoring so there is a difference on the regular compliance monitoring. Mr Philip Greenwood expressed concern that members of the community had the impression that SCPL were undertaking PM2.5 monitoring. SCPL advised that there is no formal criteria however a provision of some form of data can be considered. The data needs to be provided in a meaningful way. Hierarchy of controls need to be put in place similar to those in place for a Noise trigger level. Mr Jim Henderson advised that Gloucester Resources Ltd is undertaking PM2.5 base level data. Mr Jim Henderson advised the time frame is to establish what is the naturally occurring proportion of the PM2.5 and what is attributed to mining. Mr Philip Greenwood was concerned at the impression being given to the community on the PM2.5 implementation. Mr Keith Latham expressed that people make their own decisions instead of being based on physical facts. Discussed someone ploughing or burning off impacts the air quality. Mr Philip Greenwood expressed his concerns on previously complimenting SCPL on something that it is not really doing and needs to be clarified.
- Mr Philip Greenwood advised that he feels it is difficult to compare blast results with complaints received, without the size of the blasts being noted in the Environmental Monitoring Report. SCPL considered the request and advised that the results shown are reflective of the impact that people can feel or hear. The Maximum Instantaneous Charge of a blast is one of a number of components (such as weather and ground conditions) that affects what people notice about a blast. Mr Kevin Lowrey circulated a photo dated 18/01/13 of dust apparently resulting from blasting activity and asked why some blasts result in more dust than others. SCPL advised that various conditions such as weather, ground conditions etc change levels of dust experienced during blasting activity. Mr Richard Clarke requested that results in the Report note what overpressure levels below 110dB(L) so that the reader can see that the monitor is working. SCPL advised that it would take the request on board and consider if the request could be met without oversupplying the data capture which could result in blast recording not being captured. SCPL noted that the units have various operational modes so that they are not recording all of the time. Mr Jim Henderson would be interested in understanding what some base data (e.g. thunderstorm) would be.
- Mr Philip Greenwood noted that the CCC has not received noise survey results and SCPL agreed to provide the latest Quarterly Noise Survey Report to the CCC. Mr Greenwood also enquired about a recently approved Noise Management Plan, and whether its placement on SCPL Website had occurred. Mr Greenwood also noted that BRN Approval conditions required that sound power levels of equipment on site were required to be monitored, that he had not seen any report of that, and that it would be helpful if the CCC could be provided it. SCPL advised that the mobile sound levels were monitored annually and that the results could be provided to the CCC.

Action Item 3: SCPL to advise the CCC when the 2012 Noise Management Plan is available on the SCPL website

Action Item 4: SCPL to provide last Quarterly Noise Survey Report and Mobile Plant Assessment Report to the CCC.

- Re: Environmental Project Status, Mr Anthony Berecry suggested that items such as Weed control be noted as “continuing” and not “complete”. SCPL will take the comment on board and noted that the comment “complete” referred to works being completed for the year.

c) Community Items

SCPL provided an updated Complaint Summary and comment on the report since last meeting. Mr Philip Greenwood suggested a more detailed description of the Nature of Complaint (eg high pitched squealing/low rumbling). Also discussed importance of closing investigations into complaints.

Action Item 5: Complaint summary for CCC to include additional description for noise complaints (SCPL)

Community Support Program

SCPL advised 18 community groups received funding from the September 2012 allocations. SCPL received applications from a wide range of groups for various community projects. SCPL is very excited to be able to support a wide range of projects.

SCPL advised the CCC of updates to the SCPL website including availability of Environmental Protection Licence data.

7. General Business

- Re: Duralie Project Approval Modification 2012 (specifically the extended hours of operation for the Duralie Shuttle train), Mr Philip Greenwood enquired if the company would limit the use of the extra hours. Mr Greenwood advised that the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project stated that there would only be 1 year in 10 that the mine would produce at 3Mtpa. SCPL provided general comment on the Project Approval Modification and that the new Approval document was available on the Duralie Coal website. There was general discussion regarding the shuttle train hours now approved, and SCPL will provide a response to Mr Greenwood's request back to the CCC. Mr Greenwood urged the company to only run trains at night if essential.

Action Item 3: SCPL to respond to CCC request that its use of extended shuttle railing hours be limited.

- Mr Philip Greenwood queried whether the properties noted as company-owned in the SEP EIS were all now owned by SCPL, and SCPL advised that not all properties that were under contract at that time are now owned by SCPL as one matter was yet to complete.
- Mr Anthony Berecny enquired what future projects the company would do next. SCPL advised that no decisions have been made regarding future projects, but that the focus areas of exploration activity may indicate areas of interest for the company. Mr Philip Greenwood requested a report at the next meeting on the exploration program. SCPL advised that this year's program for exploration drilling is low level compared to historically as there will only be one or two rigs exploring on company-owned land.

Action Item 6: SCPL to report on its exploration program at the next CCC meeting

- Mr Kevin Lowrey advised his concerns, shared by others in the community, that owning property near mining operations is difficult from a perspective of capital growth and the ability to sell property in the area around mining operations when the mining company approaches its mining developments in a piecemeal manner. Ms MacDonald Hill suggested that the government's Strategic Land Use Policy may go some way to assisting communities with this concern, one that is echoed State wide and that a balance between economic, environmental and community/social is now on all government agendas and receiving far more consideration than previously.
- Mr Keith Latham requested SCPL provide advice to the CCC of infrastructure improvements (e.g. bitumen sealing Wheatleys Lane) made for the community which have been funded by the company over the past, say 5yrs, as he believes the community does not realise what the company has paid for. SCPL advised that whilst it makes financial contributions made to Council, it is SCPL's understanding that it is at Council's discretion where that money is spent.
- Mr Norm Bignell referred to the Fire Hazard Reduction in the Annual Review. Discussed areas of land owned by SCPL that have had hazard reduction burning off carried out. Also discussed potential areas that may need (further) hazard reduction activities.

- Mr Jim Henderson requested that employee numbers and location of residence be placed on the company website. Mr Kevin Lowrey suggested that the information included employees suburbs of residence as such information is helpful in understanding economic benefits of those employees. SCPL commented that there is positive economic flow-on from contractors (eg exploration) who work at mine for periods but not full-time employees, which was understood by the CCC. It was agreed that any numbers should include employees of the Duralie operation as a large number of those employees were Gloucester residents. Ms MacDonald-Hill noted that page 29 of the 2012 Annual Review shows 47% full time equivalent employees of the Stratford Mining Complex live within the local government area.
- Mr Clarke noted that on p47 of the 2012 Annual Review, SCPL advised that there were no incidences of spontaneous combustion during the reporting period and queried whether SCPL is taking proactive measures to identify seams that may result in spontaneous combustion, and if so, what measures was it taking to prevent it occurring again? SCPL advised that the company's investigation into the spontaneous combustion from the years prior which Mr Clarke referred to identified that the Glenview seam was a contributing factor. That seam is not currently being mined and there is no potential for the spontaneous combustion to occur in the other current mining areas. SCPL advised that the Stratford Extension Project EIS includes some discussion regarding the Glenview seam in the Avon North pit and spontaneous combustion.
- Mr Jim Henderson enquired about measuring methane levels from the coal, and SCPL advised that this was being determined for NGRS reporting. In summary, the coal seams near surface level (mined for coal) are highly vented (a natural occurrence over tens of thousands of years), and that the seams at depth have greater levels of methane.
- Mr Kevin Lowrey enquired about the water quality in Parkers Pit and what the pit was now used for. SCPL advised that the pit is used for dirty water containment, which is pumped to the Washery or Return Water Dam, with water quality varying (due to stockpile runoff). Mr Henderson requested that water quality figures (EC & pH) for the Return Water Dam be included in the Environmental Monitoring Report.
Action Item 7: SCPL to include water quality (EC & pH) of Parkers Pit & the Return Water Dam in next Environmental Monitoring Report
- SCPL advised the extension to the Public Comment Submission Period for the SEP concluded on 25 January. SCPL will provide a response by 1 March to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure, on the issues raised in submissions. 275 submissions were received by the Department and are on the Department's website.

Ms MacDonald-Hill discussed possible dates for meetings this year. 2 May, 1 August and 7 November. Meeting dates agreed.

Meeting closed 11.42am.

Action Items:

- 1:** SCPL to advise CCC of expected date of completion of rail mitigation screen.
- 2:** SCPL to consider the request to provide the CCC with historic EC results for water monitoring at a downstream location and advise at next meeting.
- 3:** SCPL to advise the CCC when the 2012 Noise Management Plan is available on the SCPL website
- 4:** SCPL to provide last Quarterly Noise Survey Report and Mobile Plant Assessment report to the CCC.
- 5:** Complaint summary for CCC to include additional description for noise complaints (SCPL)
SCPL to respond to CCC request for a limitation on use of extended shuttle raling hours
- 6:** SCPL to report on its exploration program at the next CCC meeting
- 7:** SCPL to include water quality (EC & pH) of Parkers Pit and Return Water Dam in next Environmental Monitoring Report for CCC