

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 8 May 2014

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	Doug Gordon	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Anthony Berecny	CCC Member	Tony Dwyer	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Norm Bignell	CCC Member	Alan Andrews	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member	Jo Wiffen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Richard Clarke	CCC Member	Corrina Merrick	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member		

1. Site Tour

Site tour comprised inspection of:-

- Bowens Road North pit and adjoining waste emplacement,
- Rehabilitated Roseville extension pit, and
- Stratford Main Pit and reject emplacement

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.01am.

Apologies: Jim Henderson.

3. 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 AGL's Camden Gas Project CCC.

The Chair opened discussions on recent media items. The Members of the Committee and the Company unanimously provided their support for Ms MacDonald-Hill to continue in her role as the Chair.

Discussed it is normal procedure for the Company to pay the Chair and that it is declared on the Company website.

Mr Richard Clarke advised that he had purchased a property within the Local Government Area and would like to continue as a Community Representative.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2014 were confirmed.

Moved: Philip Greenwood; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** *The Chair on behalf of the Committee Members to forward a letter to Mrs Rachael Windrum thanking her for her input and communications.*

The Chair forwarded a letter to Rachael Windrum (27/07/2014) and received a reply (04/03/2014).

2. **Action Item 2:** *The Committee Members to consider whether or not to appoint another Committee Member.*

The Committee agreed that the current member numbers meets the guidelines and therefore it is not necessary to appoint another Committee Member. It was also agreed that all members should reside within the Local Government Area.

3. **Action Item 3:** *Mr Tony Dwyer to look into making the necessary arrangements for stripping and baling pasture feed.*

SCPL confirmed that it was a great idea put forward by the Committee. SCPL carried out inspections with Contractors. Rainfall and change of weather has since impacted the window of opportunity to make hay. The feed quality is not good enough to make silage. SCPL implementing a management plan to clean up paddocks for next season.

4. **Action Item 4:** *The Chair to provide a letter (“a formal written request”) on behalf of the Committee to the EPA in relation to the Drought release of Mine Waste waters.*

The Chair forwarded a letter to the EPA (27/02/2014) regarding the drought release of mine waste waters.

In relation to the Environmental Protection Licence “9. Special Conditions – E1 Drought release of Mine Waste waters” EPA verbally advised:

Clause E1.1(a) – The Rural Lands Board has now been absorbed by the Minister for Primary Industries, who has declared the area a drought zone.

Clause E1.1(b) – Invoked request by committee letter.

Clause E1.1(c) – Notification has not yet occurred.

SCPL advised that a letter has been drafted by EPA. SCPL has commenced an assessment of:

- pumping infrastructure (via a Contractor) regarding pump rates, heads and pump sizes required.
- water quality in the dam and whether it is uniform from surface to depth which may impact the water that can be pumped. A SWMS has been completed for that activity.

Mr Philip Greenwood asked because the weather is not looking good is SCPL pursuing this? SCPL advised it is the intention to complete the items and have the information available. Discussions continued regarding the previous release of water under the Drought release.

5. **Deferred Action Item:** *Review Report contents for future reporting.*

Noted and still deferred.

6. Correspondence

Out:

- a. 14/2/14: Email to DP&I clarifying CCC supported Council's position, not the reverse.
- b. 27/2/14: Letter to Rachael Windrum thanking her for her contribution.
- c. 27/2/14: Letter to EPA formally requesting release of mine waters.
- d. 31/3/14: Email forwarding update from SCPL on Action Item 3.

In:

- a. 04/03/14: Letter from Rachael Windrum.
- b. 31/3/14: Email update from SCPL on Action Item 3.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

1. SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:
 - a. Progress at Mine: Completion of mining at the end of June or early July.
 - b. Environmental Projects/Activities: (refer to presentation for further detail)
 - i. Noxious Weed Program: Management Plan will focus on woody weeds over next few months then Giant Parramatta Grass in early spring. SCPL advised fungus would be used for removal of the Giant Parramatta Grass infestation. SCPL discussed areas of infestation, advice from Council Weeds Officer and also Contractor. Finalising program for implementation. Mr Philip Greenwood raised concerns regarding withholding periods for livestock and being unable to graze cattle on chemical treated areas for 14 days prior to slaughter. SCPL taken concern on notice and will report back.

Action Item 1: *SCPL to report back on stock withholding periods on chemicals used under the Weeds Program.*

- ii. Wild Dog Control Program: Tracking program undertaken in the hills in the east. No dogs caught and very little evidence of dogs. Cameras utilised as part of program. One dog captured on camera was caught over in Waukivory.
- iii. Noise: Enclosure of the coal loader has been completed. Real Time Noise Monitoring is operational. Mr Philip Greenwood advised Real Time Noise Monitoring sentence referring to no noise due to the mining operations could be misinterpreted. Discussed wording and interpretation.

Action Item 2: *SCPL to review and change the reference to period of Real Time Noise Monitoring and the mining operations.*

- iv. Air Quality – Petrographic Analysis: Mr Kevin Lowrey discussed the proportions of the samples being insects and plant material, coal and inorganic materials. If the insects and plant material are taken out the coal percentage increases. Having the insects and plant material accounted for could mislead the coal percentage. SCPL advised the sample is taken on its entire contents. All categories and descriptors are laboratory results. SCPL will discuss with the laboratory if data can be digested. It was noted that the graph is not a standard CCC inclusion and was previously requested by the Committee.

Action Item 3: *SCPL to contact the Laboratory and discuss testing and reporting standard.*

- v. Quarterly Noise Monitoring Survey – Mr Philip Greenwood advised a copy had not been received since June last year. SCPL provided hard copy of report.

8. General Business

1. Mr Kevin Lowrey advised that the email copy of documents he received from SCPL was unable to open. Previously a hard copy was mailed out prior to the meeting. Discussed the draft Minutes are to be emailed and hard copies of documents sent out.

Action Item 4: *SCPL to review the distribution procedure of the draft Minutes and documents for Meetings.*

2. Mr Kevin Lowrey enquired about the evaluation and re-evaluation of property portfolio and leasing arrangements for the future. SCPL advised as previously discussed the management of lands is separate to the operations and do not form part of the scope of the CCC. Discussed that members of the community or the CCC can raise specific concerns however commercial information may not be available.
3. SCPL discussed the proposed Exploration Program in the Stratford area. Northern area up to 50 holes on land owned by Yancoal and AGL. Southern area up to 24 holes on land owned by Yancoal. Time frame for commencement is June. Drilling Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm, ancillary works on Saturdays 7am to 5pm, no Sunday work. Mr Philip Greenwood and Mr Kevin Lowrey asked whether notification would be occurring to lessen impact. SCPL will take on board. Mr Richard Clarke discussed drilling and back filling procedures in the past and what will be put in place in future. SCPL Senior Resource Geologist entered the meeting to explain the procedures in sealing bore holes and the preferred method to be used by SCPL. Mr Kevin Lowrey enquired regarding legacy holes and method used. SCPL described method used and records kept. Photos of equipment to be used shown.

No further business

Next Meeting date: 7 August 2014.

The Meeting closed at 12.06pm.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. **Deferred Action Item:** *Review Report contents for future reporting.*
2. **Action Item 1:** *SCPL to report back on stock withholding periods on chemicals used under the Weeds Program.*
3. **Action Item 2:** *SCPL to review and change the reference to period of Real Time Noise Monitoring and the mining operations.*
4. **Action Item 3:** *SCPL to contact the Laboratory and discuss testing and reporting standard.*
5. **Action Item 4:** *SCPL to review the distribution procedure of the draft Minutes and documents for Meetings.*