

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 13 February 2014

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	Doug Gordon	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Cr Jim Henderson	Gloucester Shire Council	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

Meeting Held at Duralie.

1. Site Tour

A site tour of Duralie Coal Mine was undertaken including inspection of the Clareval pit.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.14am.

Apologies: Anthony Berecny and Kevin Lowrey.

The Chair welcomed Alan Andrews from Stratford/Duralie Coal (Community and Property Specialist).

Mr Andrews introduced himself:

- Background is Stock & Station Agency.
- Prior to that Management roles in Sydney.
- Undertaking same role that Rachael had carried out.

The Chair commented on behalf of the Committee Members of the excellent and professional job that Rachael Windrum had undertaken in the role of Community and Property Specialist. Mr Jim Henderson made a requested for the Chair to write a letter to Rachael thanking her for her input and communications.

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.*

3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair, approved by the Director-General of Department 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.

All other declarations remain the same.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013 were confirmed.

Moved: Jim Henderson; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. Discussion was held in relation to whether the Committee would appoint a new member in light of Mr Keith Latham's resignation last meeting. The guidelines recommended number for members is 3-5 which the Committee consists of. The Committee Members will consider this and discuss at next meeting.

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

2. Action Items

- a. **Action Item 1:** *CCC to review at next meeting report contents for future reporting.*

Mr Phillip Greenwood made the recommendation that this Action Item be deferred until the final Conditions of Consent for the Stratford Extension Project are known to enable a review to incorporate any additional material that may be required. It was agreed to defer this Action Item until a decision on the Stratford Extension Project is known.

- b. **Action Item 2:** *The Chair to draft a Recommendation to the Department in relation to the continuous noise monitor and using it as a management tool 24/7. The Draft will be available to everyone prior to forwarding to the Department.*

Discussed the response from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure. Mr Phillip Greenwood suggested it should be clarified in the Minutes of the Meeting that the Committee supported what Council had said and to clarify what the intent was, which was to endorse Council's view.

- c. **Action Item 3:** *The Chair will write to the Department to request a response on area of responsibility regarding overlapping exploration (AGL & Stratford mine).*

Reply received from the Division of Resources & Energy.

- d. **Action Item 4:** *The Chair to organise the Stratford CCC to visit Duralie site and vice versa.*

Undertaken 13 February 2014.

6. Correspondence

Out:

- a. 02/12/2013: Letter to DRE regarding overlapping exploration licences.
- b. 05/12/2013: Letter and Email to DP&I regarding Noise Monitoring recommendations.

In:

- a. 05/02/2014: Response from DRE regarding overlapping exploration licences
- b. 07/02/2014: Response from DP&I regarding noise monitoring recommendations.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

1. SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:
 - a. Operations have reduced to a single excavator and truck fleet within the Bowens Road North Pit. Redundancies were undertaken in December. As the mine finishes there will be further redundancies.
 - b. Noise mitigation works on the Train Load Out bin have been undertaken.
 - c. Real Time Dust Management: performance indicators have been programmed and now running a live program.
 - d. Lighting: CHPP implementing a program for external lights to be turned off automatically and also to turn off lights when not working on weekends. Reviewing program for implementation.
 - e. Community complaints: No complaints since August 2013.

2. Mr Jim Henderson asked whether there had been any dingo/dog issues on mine land with wild dogs. Mr Alan Andrews advised that a baiting program had been carried out last year. Mr Phillip Greenwood advised that last year SCPL undertook a baiting program around the Craven area. Program was coordinated so surrounding properties could join in. Was successful but wild dogs still around in low numbers.

8. General Business

1. Mr Richard Clarke had circulated his proposal for General Business. Mr Richard Clarke discussed the current drought situation and impacts on livestock and the landscape. Mr Richard Clarke put forward a proposal that SCPL consider stripping and baling pasture feed that is available on some of the land owned by SCPL and being made available to needy locals. Mr Tony Dwyer advised that SCPL supports the proposal and will look into making the necessary arrangements.

The Chair advised it was a commendable suggestion and fabulous response, a huge positive. The Chair asked if this can be mentioned at other CCC meetings as it is a great news story and might provide incentives.

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

2. Mr Richard Clarke put forward his second general business suggestion being the release of water from the Stratford Mine to assist in current drought conditions. SCPL advised that we all need an understanding of the Environmental Protection Licence being:

9. Special Conditions

E1 Drought release of Mine Wastewaters

E1.1 The formal written approval of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is required before any release of mine waste waters under the drought release conditions of this licence is permitted by this licence, on each occasion a drought release may take place. The following process must take place before the EPA considers any approval under this licence for a drought release.

- a) The licensee must provide evidence to the satisfaction of the EPA that the area is the subject of a formal drought declaration of the affected area by the Rural Lands Protection Board.*

- b) *A formal written request from the licensee to the Stratford Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee is provided to the EPA.*
- c) *The licensee provides evidence to the satisfaction of the EPA that all affected property owners have been advised of the potential dangers of using saline waters.*
In considering any potential drought release the EPA may consult with the relevant government agencies.

E1.2 *A drought release of waters from discharge point 23 (Stratford East Dam) may take place with the written approval of the EPA for the time period specified by the written approval in accordance with the conditions of this licence.*

E1.3 *Waters from Stratford East Dam may be released under this condition provided the electrical conductivity at monitoring point 2 does not exceed 2500 micro siemens per centimetre.*

E1.4 *The discharge permitted by condition E1 must cease if there is a visible flow of water from the Avon River to the Gloucester River.*

Discussed that Departments have now changed (example Rural Lands) and also which department is responsible for the official declaration of drought.

Mr Phillip Greenwood asked what the current electrical conductivity is. SCPL advised 840µS/cm. Mr Jim Henderson advised an issue may be the body of water flowing in front of the release may have high levels of salt content. SCPL advised some tributaries and creeks are known to become saline during dry conditions and it is a valid consideration for any release.

SCPL advised the major difference to a release this time is that it would be a pumping activity which has associated costs, availability of pumps and also constrains the volume that can be released.

Mr Richard Clarke put forward that SCPL investigate the matter expeditiously given the drought situation and that appropriate approvals be sort.

The Chair asked if SCPL agrees with the proposal. SCPL advised it agreed to investigate the proposal.

The Committee supported the motion that the Chair provides a letter ("*a formal written request*") on behalf of the Committee to the EPA.

Mr Jim Henderson advised he will raise it with Council to provide support to the consent.

Mr Norm Bignell asked if there is any idea how much water could be released. SCPL advised that there is approximately 1900ML stored in the dam however a percentage of that may not be pumped out due to the depth and difficulty in pump access to the lower areas.

The Chair commended Mr Richard Clarke on the suggestion and the great response of SCPL.

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.*

No further business

Next Meeting date: 8 May 2014

The Meeting closed at 11.09am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** *The Chair on behalf of the Committee Members to forward a letter to Ms Rachael Windrum thanking her for her input and communications.*
2. **Action Item 2:** *The Committee Members to consider whether or not to appoint another Committee Member.*
3. **Action Item 3:** *Mr Tony Dwyer to look into making the necessary arrangements for stripping and baling pasture feed.*
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.

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