

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 7 May 2015**

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Anthony Berecny	CCC Member	Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member	Scott Mitchell	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member		
Richard Clarke	CCC Member		
Tony Tersteeg	Gloucester Shire Council		

**1. Site Tour**

No site tour was undertaken.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:05am. The Chair welcomed Mr John Cullen, the new Stratford & Duralie Operations Manager. Scott Mitchell advised Doug Gordon has retired. John Cullen introduced himself to the committee and provided his professional background.

Apologies: Norm Bignell.

**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 & Environment, a member of the Mine Subsidence Board, Chair of the ministerial committee of AGL (Hunter CCC) and Chair AGL's Camden Gas Project CCC.

**4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 5 February were confirmed with the following amendments:

- Change to wording in Business Arising Item 5 (delete beginning of 4th sentence from '*It ... however*').
- Removal of General Business Item 2

Moved: Tony Tersteeg; Seconded: Richard Clarke.

**5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

1. **Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide an update on weeds management activities on company owned lands.

SCPL provided weed management maps for activities undertaken during 2014 and proposed management areas in 2015. Additionally, SCPL advised of recent discussions with Mid-North Coast weeds officer Terry Inkson and a pending proposal to undertake a GPG fungus trial in association with DPI on Yancoal owned properties.

Mr Greenwood commented he had observed in a nearby property (ex-Billins now owned by Yancoal) a new infestation of broad leaf paspalum normally found in regions to the north. SCPL advised information would be forwarded to Mr Alan Andrews to advise any contractors working near the area.

***New Action Item 1:*** Mr Alan Andrews to be informed of Mr Greenwood's comments regarding new weed infestation.

2. **Action Item 2:** SCPL to investigate further options to reduce dozer noise such as attenuation or operational controls.

SCPL provided the mobile plant report for the sound power level assessment completed in March 2015 by acoustic engineers on the Stratford plant. SCPL discussed the sound power level results specifically for the stockpile dozer and the follow-up actions completed by Ditchfield who service the plant including review of the undercarriage and tracks together with action items from the report. Mr Greenwood and Mr Tersteeg raised that the dozer noise has been of ongoing concern and discussed the low frequency noise. Mr Lowrey asked about changes in dozers noise over time and was it getting worse which was also discussed. SCPL explained the extensive maintenance undertaken, monitoring results still within specifications and recent effort to address tracks, ripper and gears and also explained operational locations during train loading.

***Recommendation:*** SCPL should continue to keep detailed records of maintenance on the stockpile dozer and have a continued focus on noise emissions from this plant.

3. **Action Item 3:** SCPL to advise of any monitoring undertaken during spontaneous combustion in 2006 and what requirements there are for BTEX monitoring at the Stratford operation.

SCPL advised that no BTEX monitoring was required by the Stratford project approvals. BTEX was not identified in the project environmental assessment to have a potential pathway for environmental impact from the project and hence was not considered to be of significance for inclusion in the project approvals.

SCPL discussed the investigation into a spontaneous combustion event in 2006 including monitoring undertaken for safety purposes.

4. **Action Item 4:** The Chair will send an email query to DRE to get an update on the correct process regarding historic bore holes and SCPL will provide any additional feedback.

The Chair provided a written response from the Director of Environmental Sustainability Unit of DRE. Mr Lowrey passed on concerns from Mr Bignell that the historic borehole numbers may be underestimated. The Chair advised the onus and duty of care is on the property owner to advise the relevant authority if open boreholes are identified on their property. SCPL advised of the current plug and abandon program being undertaken by AGL which includes boreholes on Yancoal property.

5. Kevin Lowrey asked in relation to dust observation from previous meeting if any further information could be provided. SCPL advised they could not definitively say as no-one was present at the time and no operations aside from some rehabilitation works. Mr Lowrey asked if SCPL had considered the use of 'Prilled Lime' to reduce potential lime dust impacts. SCPL will consider and report back to CCC.

## 6. Correspondence

In

- letter 6/3/15 response from Director of Environmental Sustainability Unit of DRE

Out

- email 13/2/15 to DRE on historic boreholes
- email 6/3/15 forward DRE response to CCC

## 7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Minimal operations only from the co-disposal area. CHPP continuing to receive Duralie coal.
2. Environmental Projects/Activities including monitoring and community complaints: (refer to presentation for further detail). Items discussed by exception:

- a. Discussions held regarding the petrographic analysis of dust deposition gauges and the percentage coal in some D5 results. SCPL advised operations currently are minimal however dust control are still in place and reiterated the overall deposition levels are very low.
- b. Mr Greenwood asked about the National Pollutant Inventory reporting summary from Department of the Environment and some significant changes in reported levels between years. Mr Greenwood asked what would cause this. Mr Greenwood tabled the relevant report. SCPL explained it may be due to various emission factors and changing operational footprint. Advised will provide further review for next meeting.

***New Action Item 2:*** SCPL to provide response to NPI query and present at the next meeting.

- c. Mr Greenwood asked about interpreting the individual 15 minute noise charts provided in the quarterly noise survey reports. SCPL provided some further explanation of the charts.

***New Action Item 3:*** VIPAC to provide some additional notes on interpreting the individual 15 minute noise charts provided in the quarterly noise survey reports.

- d. Stratford Extension Project status – Discussion over the current approval status (refer to slide in presentation). Mr Tersteeg advised of GSC concerns over Yancoal discussions with council regarding SEP conditions. SCPL advised Yancoal corporate representatives had undertaken communication with GSC however the matter should be directed towards the PAC who are the determining authority.

Mr Greenwood suggested it would be of interest to have information presented pending approval of the SEP regarding stages of commencement of operations, timing of various activities, intentions for employment, envisaged delays or any other

relevant matters. The committee agreed it would be of benefit for Mark Jacobs (Yancoal) to attend a CCC meeting.

***New Action Item 4:*** *Following a determination by the PAC on the SEP Mark Jacobs will be invited to attend a Stratford CCC meeting to present information on the next stages for the project.*

## **8. General Business**

1. Mr Berecny forwarded community queries following the ceasing of AGL's irrigation activities why Yancoal operations are able to irrigate and the potential for future impacts to the soil and the land. SCPL advised the qualities of water for irrigating at Stratford and Duralie have been rigorously assessed and very detailed management and monitoring programs are in place for controlling the irrigation of these waters. SCPL advised of the annual assessments undertaken at Duralie to monitoring irrigation activities and the assessment of potential impacts to the use of the land for future agricultural practices.

***New Action Item 5:*** *SCPL will provide a copy of the Duralie Irrigation Assessment Report.*

2. Mr Berecny asked about Yancoal's employment opportunities for the SEP. SCPL advised the project is not yet approved and these details will be advised when timing is known, however the preference is always to employ local where possible. Approximate employee numbers are stated in the SEP.
3. Mr Clarke asked what impact the recent extreme weather event had had on the Stratford and Duralie operations. SCPL provided an overview of the rainfall which was mainly to the south however Duralie did receive significant level and ARI event rankings shared. Runoff waters on both sites were managed well and all mine water or sediment laden water was contained and managed accordingly. There was no significant damage to mining equipment or major delays to operations. Impacts on export coal are expected until repairs to the northern railway line can be completed.
4. Mr Clarke noted an article in the local paper reporting on a Yancoal worker who was involved in a rescue at Dungog during the recent storm event. The committee expressed their thanks and commended the employee for his actions.

No further business

The committee discussed the timing of its next planned meeting and decided not to meet again until November, when it was expected a decision would have been made on the SEP.

Next Meeting date: 5 November 2015 at Stratford Mine site at 9:00am.

- Note: An extraordinary meeting may be called pending the determination of the SEP.

Meeting closed at 11:25am.

## **Summary of Action Items from this meeting**

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** *Mr Alan Andrews to be informed of Mr Greenwood's comments regarding new weed infestation.*

2. **Recommendation:** SCPL should continue to keep detailed records of maintenance on the stockpile dozer and have a continued focus on noise emissions from this plant.
3. **New Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide response to NPI query and present at next meeting.
4. **New Action Item 3:** VIPAC to provide some additional notes on interpreting the individual 15 minute noise charts provided in the quarterly noise survey reports.
5. **New Action Item 4:** Following a determination by the PAC on the SEP Mark Jacobs will be invited to attend a Stratford CCC meeting to present information on the next stages for the project.
6. **New Action Item 5:** SCPL will provide a copy of the Duralie Irrigation Assessment Report.
7. **Deferred Action Item:** Review Report contents for future reporting.