

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday 5 November 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	Scott Fittler	Yancoal Australia Ltd
Richard Clarke	CCC Member		
Norm Bignell	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 12:58pm. The Chair welcomed Mr Scott Fittler, Yancoal Community Relations Coordinator. Scott provided a brief overview of his role with Yancoal providing community relations support to the Yancoal group of mines.

Apologies: Mark Jacobs, Paul Stringer.

John Cullen advised Paul had expressed interest in attending the next CCC meeting.

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

Ms MacDonald-Hill advised she has ceased her role as Chair of the ministerial committee of AGL (Hunter CCC) as it has now been dissolved.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 7 May were confirmed.

Moved: Anthony Berecny; Seconded Richard Clarke.

**5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

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

SCPL advised Mr Alan Andrews had been informed of new weeds observations.

SCPL provided an update on the proposal to undertake a GPG fungus trial in association with DPI on Yancoal owned properties. SCPL has recently received the scope from DPI and this is now under review.

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

SCPL engaged Pacific Environment Ltd (PEL) to undertake review of Stratford and Duralie NPI reports since 2008 and provide comment on the key reasons for changes in the reported PM10 emissions. A report was tabled at the meeting. In 2010 SCPL commenced using PEL's Envirosuite to complete NPI reports which had previously been completed internally. At this time PEL undertook a review of the site emissions sources and the emission estimation techniques used in the reports. This review resulted changes to the overall PM10 emissions calculated and most significantly for emissions from vehicles on unpaved roads. Secondly, the PM10 emissions generally reflect total annual production for the site each year with emissions increasing when production increases.

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

SCPL advised a table had been added to the Stratford noise reports with a list of definitions for the terms used on the noise charts. Mr Greenwood asked if SCPL could provide a short presentation on interpreting the noise graphs and suggested this would be more appropriate when operations recommence.

***Deferred Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide a short presentation on interpreting noise graphs. Defer until operations recommence.*

4. **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.

Mr Mark Jacobs was unable to attend the November CCC meeting and Mr John Cullen provided information on the Stratford Extension Project progress in his absence. In summary the NSW State approval has been received on 29 May 2015 however the Commonwealth approval and subordinate approvals are still pending. Yancoal Board approval would then be required.

Mr Cullen advised the Stratford and Duralie mine sites have transitioned to owner operator on 1 September 2015. The transition has generally been successful and well received by new staff and employees.

Mr Tersteeg asked about ongoing contributions to the Education Support Fund. SCPL advised the conditions regarding community contributions have changed under the SEP Development Consent and now reflect contributions based on the number of full time employees/contractors at the site. In addition the Duralie consent conditions remain unchanged with specific conditions for contributions to Gloucester Shire Council and the Education Support Fund.

Mr Greenwood asked for an update on the Duralie mine life. SCPL advised at the current mining rates approximately three years of mining remains under the Duralie Project Approval. This would provide mining to approximately 2019 which would be followed by rehabilitation works, offset works and other mine closure works.

Mr Greenwood asked about progress with the SEP environmental management plans which have specific timings under the SEP Development Consent and some are required by the end of 2015.

SCPL advised a request had been sent to DP&E to extend management plan submission to three months prior to the commencement on any operations under the extension project.

Mr Lowrey asked if baseline building inspections would be undertaken for the SEP and which properties were included. SCPL advised the SEP conditions state all properties within a 2km radius will be offered building inspections to establish a baseline condition. SCPL have requested the approval of DP&E to undertake the necessary inspections three months prior to commencing any operations. Additionally there is provision under the consent for landowners to request building inspections where they believe blasting activities have caused damage to the property.

Mr Cullen advised further update on the SEP progress would be provided at the next meeting.

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

The Duralie Annual Irrigation Assessment Report 2014 was provided to the committee members. Advice was also provided on the monitoring undertaken in the Stratford irrigation area.

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

Mr Greenwood asked due to the likely extended time before any operations commence at Stratford if SCPL could proceed with updating the CCC presentation as previously discussed. Discussion on the layout of the presentation included providing a slide for each individual management plan heading and inserting details on the new projects and activities under each heading. SCPL will provide the amended presentation layout for comment prior to the next meeting.

***New Action Item 1:** SCPL will update the layout of the CCC presentation and provide for comment prior to the next meeting.*

7. Mr Berecny asked for an update on progress with the proposed back-burning. SCPL advised the RFS was approached in July to coordinate a hazard reduction burning program on Yancoal properties and offset areas. Due to delays no burning has been undertaken at this point however SCPL will continue to work with RFS to undertake burning during summer or into 2016. Mr Tersteeg expressed his concerns in undertaking hazard reduction burning this late in the year.

## **6. Correspondence**

In:

- 17/7/15 - email from SCPL re approval of SEP.
- 13/10/15 - letter enclosing Stratford Mining Complex 2015 AR.

Out:

- 11/6/15 - email 2015 Duralie Irrigation Areas Monitoring Report to CCC members.
- 17/7/15 - email Condition of Consent and link approval to CCC members.
- 20/10/15 - email Annual Review and link to CCC members.

## **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. SCPL discussed the various reporting requirements for the project which had been submitted during the last quarter. The Stratford Coal Mine Annual Review 2015 was provided to the CCC members and is also available on the website.
  - b. Mr Tersteeg provided positive feedback on the detailed response to noise complaints.

## **8. General Business**

1. Mr Greenwood asked if the Exploration Leases would be renewed next year given the unlikelihood of any SEP operations. SCPL advised it was likely the EL's would be renewed and the new regional technical services team would be providing support. Some limited exploration was expected to occur during 2016.
2. Mr Lowrey asked for an update on the Yancoal Agricultural Lands tender. SCPL advised they had received a good response to the first advertisement looking for expressions of interest. The responses are currently under review and further arrangements are underway for property inspections and a tendering process. Mr Alan Andrews can be contacted for further information.
3. Mr Berecry asked about the rehabilitation monitoring results presented in the Annual Review 2015. SCPL provided information on the monitoring program results for 2015 and the excepted works going forward regarding new rehabilitation and the management of existing rehabilitation.
4. Mr Clarke informed the committee of growing uncertainty in the community resulting from the delays to the Stratford operations. Mr Clarke encouraged Yancoal to continue to provide information to the community as it becomes available. The committee discussed the changes in the community which had been noticed since the ceasing of operations at the Stratford mine. Mr Tersteeg stated that changes had been noticed not just due to mining but for various reasons.

The Chair wished the committee a Merry Christmas and thanked them for their contributions during 2015.

No further business

The committee discussed the timing of meetings during 2016.

Next Meeting date: 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Stratford Mine site at 1:00pm.

- Note: An extraordinary meeting may be called pending action on the SEP.

Mr Lowrey requested a site tour to be held at the next meeting and to include the rehabilitation areas.

Meeting closed at 2:35pm.

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

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL will update the layout of the CCC presentation and provide for comment prior to the next meeting.
2. ***Deferred Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide a short presentation on interpreting noise graphs. Defer until operations recommence.