

MINUTES OF THE STRATFORD COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday 1st August 2013

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chair	Doug Gordon	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Cr Jim Henderson	Gloucester Shire Council	Tony Dwyer	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member	Rachael Windrum	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member	Jo Wiffen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Keith Latham	CCC Member	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Richard Clarke	CCC Member		

1. Site Tour

The site tour showed mining operation including Roseville Pit lookout, Bowens Road North pit, Stratford Main Pit and the result of direct grass seeding of overburden adjoining Stratford Main Pit.

2. Welcome and Apologies:

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:10am.

Apologies: Norm Bignell, Mark Jacobs

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.

Mr Kevin Lowrey declared that he is President of the local Community Hall which received funding via the Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) Community Support Program.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes were confirmed. Moved: J. Henderson; Seconded: K. Latham

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting:

a) Mr Henderson enquired, from the minutes of the meeting held 07/02/13, whether it was possible for Stratford Coal Pty Ltd (SCPL) to show a comparison between levels of PM2.5 and PM10 in air quality monitoring, and perhaps with Gloucester Resources Ltd which is measuring air quality further from mining operations. There was discussion around the topic. SCPL advised that the company is required to monitor and report on air quality to PM10, but that it would be able to provide results from the relevant air quality monitor, showing values and comparison of levels of PM2.5 and PM10, as requested by the CCC.

Action Item 1: SCPL to present a slide during the next meeting to show a comparison and absolute values of air quality monitoring for PM10 & PM2.5 at the monitor location, to date.

b) Mr Henderson enquired what percentage of coal dust is in dust monitoring.

Mr Dwyer advised that SCPL currently uses dust deposition bottles for a petrographic analysis of air quality particulates at monitoring site D6 in accordance with (Project) Approval conditions. There was a good discussion relating to this air quality monitoring style and the location of the monitor. Mr Dwyer advised that the D6 location was chosen as the approved monitoring location because of the dominant wind direction in relation to SCPL's mining operations.

Action Item 2: SCPL to provide a petrographic analysis from the dust deposition monitor for the next meeting.

c) Action Items From Previous Meeting:

1. *The Chair to contact the Department of Planning & Infrastructure regarding CCC consultation on Management Plans in general, and specifically in relation to the currently proposed SCPL Noise Management Plan.*

The Chair advised that she had contacted the Department, and that consultation with CCCs for draft Management Plans is not the norm, however it may occur in the future.

Discussion around this topic followed, including Mr Greenwood advising why he felt concerned about the Department's response. Mr Dwyer noted that the Annual Review of management plans provides a mechanism for the plans to be modified over time, which potentially allows the CCC to make recommendations regarding the effectiveness of plans.

2. *SCPL to advise CCC members on whether they may attend the Community Support Program presentation on 13 May.*

Ms Windrum advised that whilst that date has passed, attendance at these presentations is not a requirement of the CCC. The Presentation functions are not for general public attendance, so SCPL will advise the CCC of the next function date so that members may attend if they wish.

3. *To review High Volume Dust Monitoring results next meeting to see impact of fires.*

Ms Windrum noted the High Volume Dust Monitoring results shown within the Environmental Monitoring Report.

4. *SCPL to ask lab re Petrographic analysis (Real Time Dust Monitor).*

SCPL provided the response from the lab, being that a petrographic analysis from the TEOM (real time monitor) unit was not possible.

5. *SCPL track the MIC's for the blasts for correlation with complaints list as a trial.*

SCPL presented a graph showing MIC levels of blasts in Roseville Pit during 2013 with blast complaint dates. The information showed no direct correlation between MIC and blast complaints.

6. *Provide to CCC update complaints table up to 29 April inclusive by email.*

Completed, as per email 14/06/13.

7. *SCPL to include distances in the complainant location description.*

Completed.

8. *SCPL to include Environmental Project status in presentation.*

Completed.

9. *SCPL to provide graph and screen shot of Real Time Monitoring at next meeting.*

SCPL presented the information to the CCC and provided detail of the monitoring system.

Mr Dwyer noted that the focus of the real time noise monitoring is 8pm – 8am as this timeframe is generally considered to be when noise is of greatest issue to residents. Mr Greenwood raised concern that the management response "triggers" based on the real time noise monitoring are almost completely limited to the night time hours when the mining operations are not occurring, and noted that the majority of complaints in the reporting

period related to noise from the day-time mining operations, ie the mobile fleet. Mr Dwyer noted that fleet starts mining at 7am, and this time is within the focus period of the monitoring system. Mr Greenwood queried whether the location of the monitor was the best location, given traffic noise, and SCPL advised that its noise consultants considered factors such as meteorological data, and determined that the location is the most appropriate location (for the monitor).

Mr Dwyer noted that the Real Time noise monitoring system is not a compliance monitor; it is a management tool.

10. *SCPL to put on the agenda for next meeting Quarterly Noise Monitoring and Mobile Assessment monitoring result for discussion.*

Completed. Discussion noted under General Business.

11. *Mr Philip Greenwood to provide details to SCPL regarding shooting on neighbouring properties and SCPL to follow up.*

Completed. It was noted that the event occurred on land not owned by SCPL.

d) Agenda Item 5a: March 2013 Quarterly Noise Monitoring and 2012 Mobile Plant Assessment results discussion.

In relation to the Mobile Plant Assessment, Mr Greenwood commented on the adopted target of 115dB for dynamic equipment, and the amount of equipment that exceeded that target, including a dozer that showed quite a difference. Mr Dwyer noted that the first page of the report provides comment that there were no machine specific targets at the time of writing the report. In the absence of those targets, 115dB was applied. Reference to Section 5 of the report which notes the static excursions, Mr Dwyer gave examples of specific machines with target criteria, noting that those items of equipment are actually modelled, assessed and approved for this operation, to a sound power above 115dB. Mr Dwyer advised that the 2013 Mobile Plant Assessment will consequently show the true target criteria.

There was further discussion, and then Mr Greenwood queried, also in consideration of the noise complaints received by SCPL, whether SCPL uses the information in this report to consider what changes can be made to individual pieces of equipment. Mr Dwyer advised that does currently occur, citing an example. Mr Greenwood also recommended that SCPL consider the information in the Mobile Plant survey in its equipment maintenance program. Mr Lowrey enquired whether the dozer machine noise and track clatter were both assessed and Mr Dwyer advised that all of the noise from the machines was monitored.

6. Correspondence

In:

1. 20/05/13: Letter from SCPL enclosing March 2013 Noise Survey and 2012 Mobile Plant Assessment disks.
2. 14/06/13: Email from SCPL: Updated complaint summary

Out:

1. 28/05/13: Email to CCC advising of availability of Noise Survey disks

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7a) Progress at the Mine:

SCPL gave a presentation of mining activities since the last CCC meeting, noting coal and overburden movements for the second quarter of 2013. Mr Dwyer commented that the pits are getting toward their final depths with tighter work areas, and good weather conditions for mining during the period.

Mr Henderson queried whether staff numbers had changed over recent months, including at Duralie, and Mr Gordon provided comment, including advice that employment numbers have generally not changed over the past few months.

Mr Latham queried the current price of coal, and Mr Gordon provided response, including price relativity to other areas and that the indication of steady prices for the next approximately 18 months.

Mr Greenwood enquired whether Bowens Road North pit consent has been extended, and Mr Dwyer advised that the life remains as the end of December 2013. SCPL may need to seek an extension approval of a few months for this pit completion.

7b) Environmental Monitoring Performance

In relation to the Environmental Project Status, Mr Lowrey queried the status of the acoustic barriers on the rail loop. Mr Dwyer advised that the southern side of the parkup barrier had been erected and that the northern side was almost complete. Under the Stratford Extension Project, a similar structure is proposed for around the entire loop to the cutting near Bucketts Way. Mr Latham enquired why the current mitigation was not constructed at the western end of the loop and Mr Dwyer advised that the current position is the location of the parkup area where a locomotive waits when two trains are on the loop at the same time. There were some further questions regarding colour and Mr Lowrey queried whether visual softening (tree plantings) would occur. SCPL advised that the barrier would be painted "Rivergum Green" and there was no proposal to plant trees in front of the screen, noting the use of the adjoining paddock for cattle grazing.

Mr Lowrey enquired about current status of lighting reviews, noting complaints and comments he notes from residents to the west of the operations. Mr Dwyer noted that the ROM lighting was dipped down and Ms Windrum advised that although some additional lighting had been put up at the new crushing tower, following receipt of a complaint, those lights were also dipped down to reduce effect to the west. Mr Dwyer advised that lighting will also be audited within the Energy Efficiency Opportunities work. Mr Lowrey requested that Lighting be included in the Project Status report.

Action Item 3: SCPL: Include Lighting in Environmental Project Status report.

7c) Community Complaints

Mr Greenwood commented on the complaint summary and the noted Outcomes. Mr Greenwood made specific reference to when a complainant advises what they believe to be the source of noise and what comments are made in the outcomes in response. Mr Greenwood also provided general comments relating to complaints and investigations, and suggested that the company consider and provide comment on the equipment that a resident believes could be the main source of the noise disturbance. Ms Windrum provided further comment on the specific complaint, advising what that investigation revealed. SCPL undertook to better reflect resident advice of what they believe is the source of noise disturbance (where provided) and include comment on that source in the complaint outcomes.

8. General Business

a) The Chair advised that the former Chair's wife passed away last week. The CCC was supportive of the Chair sending a card on behalf of all of the committees that she took over from former Chair, Mr Morris.

b) The Chair queried whether the committee wished to inspect any areas in particular at the next meeting; and to advise SCPL by 2 weeks prior to the meeting of particular areas of interest. Mr Henderson suggested that the next site tour include Stratford East Dam and the pasture irrigation area.

c) Mr Clarke advised that SCPL undertook extensive exploration drilling on his former property two years ago, and it had recently been doing some more. Mr Clarke provided positive feedback to commend the alternative drilling style, which involved the use of above ground tubs rather than inground sumps. Mr Clarke also advised that the grouting of the holes was now occurring earlier, faster and using better techniques than previously. Mr Clarke requested that SCPL continue to use the current methods for future activity.

d) Mr Henderson commended SCPL for its efforts in maintaining the areas around the pits and CHPP, commending their current efforts in housekeeping standards.

Next Meeting Date: 7th November 2013.

Meeting closed 12:15pm

Summary of Action Items from this Meeting:

1. SCPL to present a slide during the next meeting to show a comparison and absolute values of air quality monitoring for PM10 & PM2.5 at that monitor location, to date.
2. SCPL to provide a petrographic analysis from the dust deposition monitor for the next meeting.
3. SCPL: Include Lighting in Environmental Project Status report.