

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site and via video/teleconference
Wednesday 24th February 2021

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Cr Karen Hutchinson	MidCoast Council	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
Tom Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member

Guests: Nil

1. Site Tour

No Site Inspection was undertaken at this meeting due to poor weather conditions. A site tour will be scheduled for the next meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:02am.

Apologies: Phillip Greenwood, Drew Morris (MCC)

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, Industry & Environment.

The declarations of the Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2020 were confirmed.

Moved: Norm Bignell; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide GPS map of SCPL access tracks to Mr Greenwood once available.

A map of the biodiversity offset areas tracks was finalised and provided to Mr Greenwood and the CCC via email. The Chair relayed a message of thanks from Mr Greenwood who suggested these would be useful for RFS.

2. **Action Item 2:** Mr Plain to arrange a meeting with MidCoast Council to finalise revisions to the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council and the Education Support Fund.

Mr Plain tabled the minutes from the meeting held with MidCoast Council on 10 February 2021. The meeting was attended by Mr Phil Brennan (MCC), Mrs Lyndie Hepple (MCC), Mr Michael Plain (Yancoal), Mr John Walton (Chair, Stratford Coal Education Fund).

Meeting Summary:

- Mr Plain provided clarification on the requirements for Stratford Coal and Duralie Coal to make contributions to MidCoast Council and the allocation of these contributions
- **Action:** MCC to invoice SCPL for back-dated contributions to 2018
- Mr Plain provided an update on the Stratford and Duralie mining operations and confirmed requirements/expectations regarding the longevity of contributions to MCC.
- Mr Walton provided an update on the Stratford Coal Education Support Fund. Mr Walton expressed support from the CCC's and requested a commitment from MCC on a proportion of the Community Enhancement funding to be allocated to the education fund. This has previously been 50%
- **Action:** Mr Brennan and Mrs Hepple to review previous related correspondence and confirm MCC's current position.
- **Action:** Ms Bindon (MCC) to supply updated spreadsheet on the Education Fund account status.
- Financial reporting from MidCoast Council – The annual financial report to the Stratford and Duralie CCC's was discussed. Mr Plain advised the reporting for Duralie was accurate, however limited information regarding Stratford has been included.
- **Action:** Agreed that Council's annual report will be provided at November meeting and include relevant updates.
- Discussion regarding how Council has been able to leverage Environmental funding to obtain other funding/grants within the Karuah Catchment.

Cr Hutchinson and the Committee commended the ongoing implementation of the Education Support Fund.

***New Action Item 1:** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment, updated Education Fund account spreadsheet, updated annual report to CCC with details regarding Stratford contributions.*

3. **Action Item 3:** Coking/thermal coal production ratios to be included in the CCC presentations.

Action completed.

4. **Action Item 4:** SCPL to investigate and provide feedback on source of dust from Stratford East and controls implemented.

Mr Kirkwood presented comments provided from the mining shift supervisor, *"Drills operating at RL150 on STR048 Drill pattern at Southern end of Stratford east pit. Dust Curtains and suppression operational. Dry, unconsolidated surface material. Will continue to reduce operations if excessive dust is observed"*

5. **Action Item 5:** SCPL to provide a response to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.

Mr Plain advised there had been no further change to report at this stage. SCPL is still in the process of finalising the licence terms. Mr Fenning advised he would report back to Council and requested this to remain an agenda item.

***Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide an update to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.*

6. **Action Item 6:** CCC hard copy documents to be posted or delivered with sufficient time for Committee members to review before the scheduled meetings.

Action completed. Confirmed by Committee members. Standard to be maintained at subsequent meetings

7. **Action Item 7:** The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next Stratford CCC meeting.

The Chair informed the CCC that Mr Morris was unable to attend the February meeting. An open invitation will be provided to Mr Morris.

***Action Item 3:** The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next Stratford CCC meeting.*

8. **Annual Action Item:** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each August on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.

Mrs Hepple requested that Council's annual report to the CCC will be provided at each November meeting to align with other Council reporting

***Annual Action Item:** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.*

6. Correspondence

Included in the meeting agenda.

Chair noted additional correspondence:

12/2/21 - MP email attaching noise monitoring reports for November/December to CCC.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: SCPL advised operations continued in Avon North, Stratford East, Roseville West pit and BRN. No further clearing was undertaken during the quarter. Coking and thermal coal volumes included in report.

2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Lowrey expressed that it would be useful to include the blast location in the blasting results section of the presentation.

Action Item 4: *Blasting location to be added the CCC presentation in the blasting results section.*

Cr Hutchinson commented on increased observations of wild dogs in the Booral area. The Committee discussed wild dog control programs and commented on an observed decrease in activity around the Stratford area. Cr Hutchinson informed the Committee of the facility for reporting of wild dog activity on MidCoast Councils website.

8. General Business

1. Mr Bignell raised concerns regarding the progress of the recent native rehabilitation on the Avon North waste emplacement. Mr Bignell noted that the northern slope of this area appeared to be only covered by a thin layer of topsoil and the area was not well vegetated. Mr Plain advised that the area had undergone two campaigns of seeding and harrowing with re-seeding in November 2020. Mr Plain explained that the topsoil in this area had become very fine and lost a significant amount of structure during the rehandling and stripping phase. Mr Plain advised that there will be further soil improvement works undertaken after a campaign of soil testing and monitoring.
2. Mr Lowrey noted that there has been a rise in the number of complaints received by Stratford Coal. Mr Lowrey asked what actions or mitigation measures had been implemented by SCPL. Mr Plain advised the majority of the complaints were related to noise and lighting impacts and were from properties to the west of the Bucketts Way which had line of sight to the Stratford operations. Mr Plain advised SCPL personnel had undertaken inspections and made changes to the lighting plant configurations to reduce lighting impacts.

Mr Fenning also noted the increase in complaints and queried what SCPL was doing to mitigate the noise issues perceived by the complainants including any additional noise monitoring/modelling. Mr Plain advised SCPL had been engaging with the complainants. Mr Plain explained that there had been an additional real-time noise monitor installed at a property on Deards Lane and additional attended noise monitoring will be undertaken monthly. Furthermore, feedback has been provided to the mining supervisors.

3. Mr Clarke asked about the proposed final void scenarios for the Stratford Mine Site. Mr Plain informed the Committee three final voids are approved for the final landform for the Stratford Project. The voids are conceptually designed as groundwater sinks rather than flow-through voids or spilling final voids. Mr Plain advised further detailed design work would be undertaken as part of the mine closure planning process. This work would be undertaken in consultation with relevant Regulators and the CCC. Mr Plain advised the new Stratford Mining Operations & Rehabilitation Management Plan, currently with the Resources Regulator for approval, includes details regarding a mine closure planning program.
4. Mr Plain provide an update on the recommencement of mining operations at the Duralie Coal Mine.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 26th May 2021.

Meeting closed at 10:10am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment, updated Education Fund account spreadsheet, updated annual report to CCC with details regarding Stratford contributions.
2. ***Action Item 2:*** SCPL to provide an update to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.
3. ***Action Item 3:*** The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next suitable Stratford CCC meeting.
4. ***Action Item 4:*** Blasting location to be added the CCC presentation in the blasting results section.
5. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual financial report each November on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.