

**Final Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
via video/teleconference
Wednesday 11th August 2021**

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Phillip Greenwood	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
Tom Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Richard Clarke	CCC Member

Guests:

Nil

1. Site Tour

No site tour was scheduled for this meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:02am.

Apologies: Cr Karen Hutchinson; Mr Anthony Berecny; Mr Norm Bignell.

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 26 May 2021 were confirmed.

Moved: Phillip Greenwood; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** The Chair to invite MCC Ecologist or Catchment Officer to present at a future Stratford CCC meeting information on the Manning Catchment Management Plan and projects.

An invitation provided by the Chair has been accepted by MidCoast Council (MCC) representatives. Mathew Bell - Senior Ecologist, will present the MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework at the November 2021 meeting. Louise Duff – Catchment Coordinator, will present the Manning River Catchment Management Plan at the February 2022 meeting.

New Action Item 1: Mathew Bell - Senior Ecologist, will present the MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework at the November 2021 meeting. Louise Duff – Catchment

Coordinator, will present the Manning River Catchment Management Plan at the February 2022 meeting.

2. **Action Item 2:** 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.

Mr Plain advised that MCC have provided an update to the 2019/20 Annual Financial Report. Mr Plain will review this report and distribute to the Committee. Mr Plain advised MCC haven't yet provided clarification on the education support fund. It is expected that MCC should be providing the 2020/21 report at the November meeting.

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

Mr Plain advised the water reuse order is likely to be deferred and will be incorporated into the closure planning works over the coming years.

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda. There was no further discussion.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Cullen advised operations continued in Avon North and Stratford East. Mining in the BRN pit was completed in June 2021 and backfilling has commenced. The Roseville West pit is currently being used for water storage.

Mr Greenwood commented on the notable increase of thermal coal to coking coal during the quarter. Mr Cullen advised this was due to the larger volumes of bypass thermal coal coming from the BRN pit. Greater volumes of coking coal from Stratford East and Avon North were expected in the next quarter. Mr Lowrey asked what was proposed for the Roseville West pit. Mr Cullen advised it was currently being used for water storage and would be backfilled over the coming years.

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

Information was provided regarding the SMC 2020 Annual Review, the 2020 Independent Environmental Audit Report and the Resources Regulator Rehabilitation Reforms.

A blast conducted on 16th July 2021 which exceeded 115dB(L) at the Greenwood monitor was discussed. It was noted this result may have been influenced by wind. Mr Greenwood noted the ground vibration was also higher than previous results and therefore was more inclined to believe that the exceedance was not to do with the wind speed as stated in the presentation. SCPL replied the blasting in Stratford East is progressing south and this blast was the closest to date to this location.

Rehabilitation progress was discussed, including the backfilling and bulk shaping of the BRN void which would occur through to the end of the year. Mr Greenwood asked if the BRN backfilling was

contributing to the level of noise complaints and if this activity was undertaken on night shift. SCPL advised waste backfilling in BRN was undertaken on both day and night shift. Mitigation measures are implemented including reducing operating levels at night-time and to establish earthen bunding. SCPL advised the noise complaints have generally been linked to the Avon North operations.

Mr Lowrey commented that the ongoing lighting impacts from the mine as highlighted in the recorded complaints indicates a lack of foresight and appreciation from SCPL crew members. Mr Lowrey asked if pre-planning is undertaken for the setup of lighting plants to consider offsite impacts. SCPL advised protocols have been established for lighting plant setup, however it is still possible that changes in personnel can result in incorrect setup when mobile lighting plants are being relocated. Ongoing communication and education are undertaken to reduce the risk of this occurring.

8. General Business

The Committee discussed the ongoing impacts of Covid and the restrictions imposed at Stratford Coal.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 3rd November 2021.

Meeting closed at 9:42am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** Mathew Bell - Senior Ecologist, will present the MidCoast Council Biodiversity Framework at the November 2021 meeting. Louise Duff – Catchment Coordinator, will present the Manning River Catchment Management Plan at the February 2022 meeting.
2. ***Deferred Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment and updated Education Fund account spreadsheet.
3. ***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.