

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**Stratford Mine Site**  
**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

**Attendees:**

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecry	CCC Member
Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council		

**Guests:**

Lyndie Hepple – MidCoast Council – Coordinator Community Development

**1. Site Tour**

Site tour was undertaken prior to the meeting and included visiting Avon North pit, Stratford East Pit, Pasture Rehabilitation areas and Roseville West Pit.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:45am.

Apologies: John Cullen & Mrs Lauren Byrne

**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.

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022 were confirmed.

Moved: Cr Katheryn Smith; Seconded: Anthony Berecry.

**5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

- 1. 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.*

Mrs Hepple presented the details of Community Enhancement Funding - Duralie and Stratford Report FY 2021/22. The Report outlined the current financial state of the Stratford Coal community contributions to Council for the purpose of community works programs and contribution to general road maintenance for the Bucketts Way and Wenham Cox Road.

Mrs Hepple informed the Committee that MidCoast Council had resolved to formalise the allocation of 50% of the community contributions to the Education Support Fund, that 25% be allocated to upgrading facilities in Stratford, and the CCC be consulting in the distribution of the remaining 25%.

The Stratford CCC discussed the works proposed in the report for 2022/2023. The Stratford CCC supported the proposed upgrades to Stratford park.

Mr Kevin Lowrey suggested a portion of the remaining contributions towards management of Privet and Lantana infestations within the public lands along the Avon River. Cr Katheryn Smith Indicated that this work is the responsibility of councils weed department rather than funding through community contributions. Cr Katheryn Smith committed to liaise with the council's weed department to coordinate management of the weeds in the creek area.

***New Action Item 1:*** Cr Katheryn Smith to liaise with MidCoast Council's weeds department to coordinate management of weeds within the public land along the Avon River.

Mrs Hepple consulted with the Stratford CCC in regards to the remaining 25% of the funds allocated for 2022/2023. Mrs Hepple Suggested the remaining 25% of available funds could be used to repair the Billabong Park pedestrian swing bridge that had been destroyed in a recent flood event or contribute to the repair of the roads and footpaths in Gloucester District Park. The Stratford CCC reached a consensus that the committee did not support the allocation of funds to the Gloucester Park pedestrian bridge as the committee believes the funds should be spent in the Stratford community directly adjacent to the mine.

Mr Clarke suggested an initiative to record and provide information of the historic industry in the Stratford locality. Through consensus of the Stratford CCC the Committee proposed that the remaining funds be used for an interpretive sign to be erected in the Stratford Park that captures the local history of the Stratford and Craven area. Mrs Hepple will take the suggestion back to Council for consideration.

Mr Plain commended Mrs Hepple and the MidCoast Council on the quality of the financial report. This view was endorsed by the Committee.

2. ***New Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide the details of the Gloucester Business Chamber to SCPL.

Details of the Gloucester business chamber was provided to SCPL on 11/8/2022.

## **6. Correspondence**

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda.

## **7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Kirkwood advised mining operations continued in Avon North Open Cut. Backfilling of the Roseville West Pit continued in Q3 2022. Stratford East pit mining operations have ceased.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring, mine closure and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Plain provided an update on the progress of mine closure planning activities. Mr Plain advised a stakeholder engagement strategy had been prepared and an independent consultant engaged to

undertake the socio-economic impact assessment for closure. Surveys and interviews are currently underway, and the results will be reported back to the CCC.

Mr Philip Greenwood enquired about the duration of the bulk shaping and rehabilitation work following the cessation of mining. Mr Plain informed the CCC that the bulk earthworks to achieve the final landform will take approximately 2 years following the completion of coal mining, and a further year to finalise rehabilitation activities. Mr Greenwood added that messaging from Stratford coal needs to be clear that it's not 'lights off' immediately after coal mining ceases in 2024.

Mr Anthony Berecny asked Mr Plain if there had been any discussion between SCPL and Minerals X. Mr Plain advised the CCC that Yancoal had been approached by Minerals X to present information on their project proposals. Mr Plain continued that SCPL is working towards a developing and executing the mine closure plan with coal mining to cease in 2024.

## **8. General Business**

There was no General Business.

## **9. Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule**

2023 proposed Meeting dates:

- 9:00am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023
- 9:00am on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023
- 9:00am on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- 9:00am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Meeting closed at 11:50am.

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

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** Cr Katheryn Smith to liaise with MidCoast Council's weeds department to coordinate management of weeds within the public land along the Avon River.
2. ***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.