

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site
Thursday 9th February 2023

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	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Lauren Byrne	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council		

Guests:

Cicely Trevaskis – Yancoal – Environment and Community Vacation Student
Nick Staheyeff – IEMA – Mine Closure Consultant
Mark Sargent – AIGIS Group - Principal Consultant

1. Site Tour

No site tour was scheduled for this meeting.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00am.

Apologies: Mr Ryan Fenning

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.

The declarations of the Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3rd November 2022 were confirmed.

Moved: Richard Clarke; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

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.*

Due November 2023 meeting.

Mr Michael Plain noted that the Stratford Coal Education Fund Financial Status Report from Council was received on 27th January 2023 from Phil Brennan.

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.

Cr Smith liaised with Ms Lyndie Hepple from Mid Coast Council who stated that Council does not have a Privet management program. It was also stated that Privet is a widespread weed and there is no requirement within Council to conduct a management program.

The Chair stated that she will investigate further, follow up and report back to the CCC.

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 mining operations continued in Avon North Open Cut. Backfilling of the Roseville West Pit continued in Q4 2022.
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 presented the Stratford Closure Planning approach. Introducing both the ICMM Integrated Mine Closure Guidelines and Internal Yancoal guidelines.

Figures outlining the proposed final voids and refined landforms were shared with the CCC including discussion on retaining the Avon North diversion drain and removing and rehabilitating the Stratford East diversion drain.

Mr Kevin Lowrey asked about the rehabilitation of the Parkers Pit Void. Mr Plain responded that due to the location of Parkers Pit near the CHPP it would be one of the last pits to be decommissioned as the area will be in use until the operational areas rehabilitation is complete. Ultimately Parkers Pit will be backfilled. Contamination studies are currently being undertaken and investigated in the area.

Discussions were raised regarding the proposed final voids and the risk to public safety. Mr Plain stated that bunding and security fencing around the final voids to restricted long-term access is required, however to details of construction design and location have not been finalised. Cr Smith asked whose responsibility it is for maintenance of final void fencing. Mr Plain replied that voids pose potential residual risk for Yancoal which requires Yancoal to have a long-term obligation to the site and further assessments on residual risk of the land would be undertaken.

Mr Plain also presented information on Yancoal's Approvals Relinquishment Strategy, Tenements Relinquishment Strategy and Property Strategy which assists in the long-term plan for property reuse and divestment. Mr Plain suggested that Mr Alan Andrews from Yancoal's Property Team and Mr Thomas Holt from Yancoal's Tenements and Approvals Team could be invited to attend a future meeting of the CCC to present to the committee.

3. *Social Economic Impact Assessment for Closure*: (*refer to Dr Mark Sargent's presentation for further detail attached*). Items discussed by exception:

Dr Sargent was invited to present the findings and recommendations of the socio-economic impact assessment prepared for closure of the mine sites.

Cr Smith mentioned that the local community has already seen the impact of Stratford Mine closing when the hours of operation reduced; particularly with the reduction of engineering companies in Gloucester. Cr Smith also mentioned that this is natural business progression, however the local community is at the tail-end of the mine closing.

Mr Berecny stated that he doesn't see the value in Dr Sargent's report to the wider community. Dr Sargent responded that the purpose of the assessment was to gain knowledge on the potential impacts to the community when the Mine closes, and this was commissioned voluntarily by Yancoal, not as a requirement.. The Socio-Economic Impact Assessment will guide Yancoal with decision making throughout the Mine Closure process and assist in developing effective mitigation measures.

Mr Lowrey raised that before the mine opened the local area and land were operating farms and their contribution to town were significant. He stated that with the new demographic of people moving to the area, if you changed the land use back to those original property sizes and sold to newcomers, that it would be an interesting set of figures to see. Most of those people who move to the area come and create high amounts of indirect employment. Mr Greenwood was wondering if any thought has been put into capturing that data? Concern was also raised as to the "super lots" and how the large property sizes don't support new people moving to the area. Dr Sargent agreed and these issues are considered in the assessment. Yancoal has completed a land use study in the various potential uses of the area. Dr Sargent also stated that it's not only up to Yancoal to support local businesses but that it's on these businesses to build resilience to changes in the area and to use any threats or opportunities to be responsive enough.

Mr Greenwood also raised concern that it should be taken into account the sizes of the land when they are sold as it has an impact on the local amenity of the area. Mr Plain replied that Yancoal is indeed looking into these concerns with the highest and best land use study and industry performance metrics.

4. *Mine Closure Fact Sheet*

Mr Plain handed out the new Stratford Mine Closure Fact Sheet that has been prepared. Mr Plain also discussed the proposed ongoing community engagement for Mine Closure and the proposed consultation schedule including updates to the company website.

5. *Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH)*

Mr Plain introduced to the CCC the new Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project. The project has completed a Pre-Feasibility Assessment and is currently completing a Feasibility Study which is expected to take around 18 months to complete. The Feasibility Study includes baseline environmental studies and investigations which includes initial stakeholder engagement.

Mr Plain stated that Yancoal welcomes discussions and questions around the SREH within the Stratford CCC as discussions will be needed to be had around how the project fits in the Stratford Mine Closure.

Mr Greenwood suggested consultation with the Energise Gloucester as they had a local proposal for something similar that did not go ahead due to access to the grid. Mr Plain replied that the SREH proposes that solar energy is only a supplement to the pumped hydro, no solar would be going direct to the grid.

8. General Business

There was no General Business.

Mr Lowrey suggested that site tours should be conducted next meeting. Mr Kirkwood confirmed that the next CCC meeting in May would include a site tour.

Closed meeting at 11:30am

9. Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule

2023 proposed meeting dates:

- 9:00am on Thursday 11th May 2023
- 9:00am on Thursday 10th August 2023
- 9:00am on Thursday 9th November 2023

Meeting closed at 11:50am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** *The Chair to liaise further on Weed Management with Cr Smith and Mid-Coast Council including additional investigation into Council's requirements and to provide the CCC with any updates.*
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** *A site tour to be included with the Stratford CCC meeting held in May 2023.*
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.*