

Meeting Minutes

Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Stratford Mine Site
Thursday 11th May 2023

Attendees:

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

Invited Guests:

Rhett Pattison – Manager Community Assets, MidCoast Council

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken prior to the meeting and included visiting the *Cabbage Gum Floodplain Open Forest* planting area off Wenham Cox Road, Avon North lookout and Stratford rehabilitation lookout.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:00am.

Apologies: Mr Richard Clarke and Mr Rhett Pattison (MidCoast Council)

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, 9th February 2023 were confirmed.

Moved: Philip Greenwood; Seconded: Anthony Berecny.

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.

Weed Management: To determine the exact area Cr Katheryn Smith requested that Mr Kevin Lowrey provide a map so that she can follow up with MidCoast Council as it is currently unclear where the exact area in question is. Mr Philip Greenwood advised it might be ARTC land. Mr Kirkwood offered to assist with creating a map for Cr Smith.

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda. The Chair recognised that the Chair's Annual Report is now on the Stratford Coal website. 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 Q1 2023. Mr Cullen advised that SCPL is currently supplying to domestic scheme (Coal Power Stations) and the first train designated to this scheme left site in April.
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 a brief update on the Stratford Closure Planning activities which included the demolition of the Duralie coal unloader and conveyors completed in March 2023.

3. *Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH)*

Mr Kirkwood provided an update to the CCC on the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project. The project is still completing a Feasibility Study which is expected to be completed in Q1 2024. The Feasibility Study includes baseline environmental studies and investigations which includes initial stakeholder engagement. New activities commencing in May 2023 include investigating the ground conditions including drilling works.

Cr Katheryn Smith asked how often a new factsheet would be drafted. Mr Plain stated that they are released when new information is available. The next fact sheet is expected when geotechnical and environmental studies are complete.

Mr Lowrey asked for further information on where the solar panels associated with the project would be placed. Mr Plain noted that initial areas have been investigated and will check if any initial mapping on the proposed areas is currently available.

4. *Amendments to Stratford Offset Areas*

Mr Kirkwood presented proposed exclusion areas to the current positive and restrictive covenants associated with the Stratford Offsets. There are currently two dwellings that were originally included in the spatial data for the surrounding offset areas. Stratford Coal are seeking to have the residential properties excised from these biodiversity areas.

Mr Plain stated that Offset Areas are not meant to include any residential dwellings and the inclusion of them in the original spatial data was an oversight which SCPL is seeking to amend. Mr Plain explained that the residential dwellings in the Offset Areas are covered by positive covenants which restricts any works being undertaken to the dwellings.

8. General Business

Lyndie Hepple presented for Rhett Pattison who was an apology. She discussed that Mr Pattison is seeking Stratford Community Consultative Committee's support on allocation of Stratford Community Infrastructure funds to complete improvements at Stratford Park. It was noted that a

Council resolution in August 2021 requires the CCC to be consulted in the distribution of 25% of the total Stratford Community Infrastructure Fund contributions.

Mr Plain stated that Stratford Park has become a popular free-camp site since COVID and asked Ms Hepple if this was considered during the planning of the park upgrade works. It was discussed that the proposed bollards restrict access to the grassed areas which are popular with transient users of the Bucketts Way. Cr Smith stated that Council will investigate further whether the proposed playground could be moved to remove the need for bollards.

The Chair asked the CCC if there was support for the allocation of funds to the upgrade of Stratford Park and the committee agreed.

9. Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule

2023 proposed meeting dates:

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

The Chair stated that the CCC scheduled for Thursday, 9th of November 2023 falls on Cattle Sale Day and proposed that the meeting be moved to Thursday, 16th of November 2023 or a later date. The Chair will liaise with the CCC on a preferred date.

Meeting closed at 12:02pm

Summary of Action Items from this 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.*
2. **New Action 1:** *Chair to liaise with CCC on preferred date for November meeting.*