

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 7 August 2019

Attendees:

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

Guests:

Lyndie Hepple (MCC)

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken at the conclusion of the meeting. The site tour included the Avon North Open Cut.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:07am.

Apologies: Anthony Berecny, Paul De Szell (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 & 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 16th May 2019 were confirmed.

Moved: Philip Greenwood; Seconded: Richard Clarke.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide a copy of the map showing the rural lease areas.

The maps showing the rural lease areas were sent although not received correctly by the CCC members. SCPL will resend the maps.

New Action Item 1: SCPL to provide a copy of the maps showing the rural lease areas.

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

Lyndie Hepple attended the August 2019 meeting. Mrs Hepple advised the Council's annual report had been delayed due to changes to Council's systems. Mrs Hepple advised the full report could be provided at the next meeting.

Mr Plain asked if an update could be provided on the allocation of the community enhancements funds for 2019. Mrs Hepple advised an update could be provided at the next meeting.

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

6. Correspondence

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda.

Stratford East Dam water release

The Chair advised correspondence had been received from Advance Gloucester requesting consideration by the Stratford CCC for controlled water releases from the Stratford East Dam. The correspondence advised Advance Gloucester would support the controlled release of waters contained in the Stratford East Dam for use by downstream landholders in the Avon catchment.

SCPL provide information on the status of the Stratford East Dam, previous water release arrangements and the current development consent conditions. At present no water is permitted to be released from the dam. SCPL advised of the potential approvals required to be able to undertake such a water release.

The Committee discussed the potential benefits and issues with undertaking the release of mine water. One comment suggested this would only provide short-term relief and long-term measures were required for landholders. Another suggested the significant effort required to gain approval and the potential negative community perceptions may outweigh the limited benefits. The Committee members and SCPL representatives had mixed views on the pros and cons of a water release from the Stratford East Dam

The Chair advised the matter would ultimately be a government decision and would forward the matter for consideration.

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 the BRN cutback and the Avon North Open Cut. The Mining Lease for Stratford East has now been granted and construction works for the Stratford East Open Cut will commence during August 2019.

Mr May provided an update on recruitment for the Stratford Mine and the recent appointment of trainees and traineeships. Mr Greenwood asked if further recruitment was planned and referenced

the original numbers referred to in the Environmental Impact Statement. Mr May advised there was no further recruitment planned in connection with the commencement of the Stratford East Open Cut. The current operating hours, production rate and overall numbers of employees remains lower than originally proposed in the EIS.

2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:
 - a. Stratford Mining Complex Annual Review 2019 – Mr Plain advised the Annual Review for 2018 was now available.
 - b. The Committee discussed the noise monitoring results. Mr Lowrey asked when the recent noise reports would become available. Mr Plain advised noise reports should be available on the Stratford Coal website and this would be checked. Mr Clarke advised he had received some comments regarding noise from residents along Fairbairns Lane. Mr Plain advised actions currently being taken to continue to minimise noise emissions.
 - c. The Committee discussed the current works being undertaken in the Biodiversity Offset areas and the works being implemented for the Squirrel Glider Program. Mr Greenwood suggested this information could be provided to MidCoast Council with regard to preserving vegetation along road reserves.

New Action Item 2: SCPL to liaise with MidCoast Council regarding the potential for sharing information in areas where biodiversity conservations areas extend across Council road reserves.

8. General Business

1. Mr Lowrey asked what bushfire mitigation measures would be implemented in the Stratford biodiversity areas and advised there was concern from some community members regarding the build-up of fuel loads. Mr Plain advised the Biodiversity Management Plan included measure for bushfire management. During the early stages of revegetation works it is necessary to exclude fire to allow for the establishment of vegetation, however this can lead to increased fuel loads. Bushfire risk is managed through the maintenance of access tracks and fire breaks surrounding the offset areas.
2. Mr Clarke asked about the changes to the traffic rules at the mine site. Mr May advised the company had transitioned from NSW road rules to vehicle hierarchy rules in the operational areas.
3. Stratford Coal Family Day
SCPL advised a family and friends open day had been held at the Stratford Coal Mine during May 2019. Over 500 people attended over the course of the day and SCPL was thankful for the support provided by local community groups.
4. Duralie Coal Mine Nest Box Program
Mr Plain advised SCPL had recently received the NSW Minerals Council award for Environmental Excellence for the Duralie Coal Mine Nest Box Program. A short film on the project was played to the Committee.

No further business.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 6th November 2019.

Meeting closed at 10:40am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide a copy of the map showing the rural lease areas.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** SCPL to liaise with MidCoast Council regarding the potential for sharing information in areas where biodiversity conservations areas extend across Council road reserves.
3. ***Annual Action Item:*** MidCoast Council to provide an annual report each August on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions made to Council.