

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Thursday 21 February 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
Cr Karen Hutchinson	MidCoast Council	John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd

Guests:

Paul De Szell MidCoast Council (Via phone call)

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken at the start of the meeting. The areas inspected included the Wenham Cox Rd Diversion and the Avon North Open Cut viewed from east of the operations.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00am.

Apologies: Kevin Lowrey, Philip Greenwood, Anthony Berecny, Ryan Fenning (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.

Ms Macdonald-Hill advised the Mine Subsidence Board has been dissolved and as such is no longer a member.

The declarations of the Stratford CCC members remain current.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 8th November 2018 were confirmed.

Moved: Norm Bignell; Seconded: John Cullen.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** SCPL to provide MidCoast Council with a summary of all the conditions of the Development Consents relating to council contributions. SCPL to include a copy of the PAC determination letter for the Stratford extension project.

SCPL prepared a summary of the Development Consents conditions relating to council contributions and provided this information to Lyndie Hepple at MidCoast Council. A copy of the correspondence to MCC was provided to the Committee members.

Mr De Szell (MCC) dialled in via phone call to provide information on the allocation of council contributions in the former Gloucester Shire Council area. Mr De Szell advised the Stratford Development Consent conditions were not specific on what the contributions were to be spent on and previously the funding was generally directed to infrastructure and road works. The Committee has previously expressed an interest that the money was originally intended for community enhancement projects and the education support fund. Mr De Szell advised MCC was planning to restructure the allocation of funding and this would be similar to the Duralie Community Fund established on 2018. Funding would also continue to be allocated to the education support fund.

Cr Hutchinson provided an update from the Education Support Fund Annual Meeting including discussion regarding the lack of transparency of previous expenditure of funds by Gloucester Shire Council. The Committee discussed the current scope and guidelines for the Education Support Fund. Cr Hutchinson advised the Education Fund Committee had resolved to review the guidelines during 2019. Clarification on the availability of funds would be provided by Lyndie Hepple (MCC).

2. **Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide the CCC members with contact details for general property and community matters.

Contact details were provided to the Committee members by Mr Plain via email on 27/11/2019.

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.

Report to be provided in August 2019.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda.

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. Construction works for the Stratford East Open Cut have been delayed.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

8. General Business

1. Stratford Extension Project Update

SCPL provided a progress update on the commencement of the Stratford Extension Project. Mr Plain advised the Mining Lease Application for the Stratford East Open Cut had not yet been granted. SCPL had proposed to commence construction of the Stratford East Open Cut in early 2019 but due to the delay with the MLA grant, construction activities had been postponed. Mr Plain advised the Environmental Management Plans and Mining Operations Plan had now been approved by DP&E.

Mr May advised operations had continued in BRN and Avon North. Due to the delay in commencing Stratford East the mining schedules for 2019 had been revised. SCPL would now operate two excavator fleets in Avon North until Stratford East becomes available. Mr May advised all operators and staff had now relocated from the Duralie Mine to the Stratford Mine

Cr Hutchinson asked how many people were currently employed by Stratford Coal. Mr May advised there was currently an employee and staff base of approximately 95 plus approximately 30 Ditchfield operators and staff. Mr May advised SCPL were in the process of appointing about 15 new operators which would be a combination of experienced operators and trainees.

Mr May suggested holding the next CCC meeting at the Wadland residence owned by SCPL as this provides a good view of the operations. The Committee agreed to this suggestion.

2. Proximity of mining operations to Stratford Village

Mr Clarke advised a Stratford community member had asked what the proximity of the Stratford operations to the Stratford Public School would be. Mr Plain advised the current operations in BRN are approximately 2.5kms from the Stratford School. The approved operations in the Roseville West Extension would be approximately 1.4kms from the Stratford School at the closest point. Mr Clarke requested hard copy maps of the approved operational areas which was provided by SCPL.

3. Stratford Coal Mine CCC Annual Report 2018

The Chair advised the CCC Annual Report for 2018 had been prepared and submitted to DP&E. The 2018 report used the new template from the CCC guidelines. Mr Plain advised the CCC Annual Report would be made available on the Stratford Coal website.

4. Dust management

Mr Bignell advised a few community members had commented on the visible dust levels from the Stratford operations. Mr Bignell advised the dust was worse than they had noticed previously and was visible from north of the operations. Mr Plain advised during the dry conditions and whilst operations were advancing into new areas a greater focus on dust management was required. Mr Plain advised information would be communicated with the mining supervisors.

5. Stratford Coal rural property management

Mr Plain provided an update on the leasing of rural properties own by Stratford Coal. Advertising was undertaken during late 2018 with expressions of interest received in December 2018. Property inspections were undertaken in January 2019 with interested parties submitting their applications by the end of January. Notification to the successful applicants was completed in February. The new leases aggregate landholdings with the overall aim to improve rural land management.

6. Mr Plain provided an update on the Stratford Extension Project Mod 1 court appeal and the associated Rocky Hill Project court appeal. Both appeals were dismissed in the Land & Environment Court. Mr Plain advised no further action was required by SCPL at this stage.

No further business.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Thursday 2nd May 2019. The next meeting will be held at the Wadland residence (details to be provided).

Meeting closed at 11:28am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***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.*