

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6 November 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	Jo Wiffen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Philip Greenwood	CCC Member	John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd
Anthony Berecry	CCC Member		

Guests:

Nil

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken at the conclusion of the meeting. The site tour included the Stratford East Open Cut construction area.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:07am.

Apologies: Ryan Fenning (MCC), Lyndie Hepple (MCC), Paul De Szell (MCC), Cr Karen Hutchinson (MCC), Kevin Lowrey.

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 Wednesday 7th August 2019 were confirmed.

Moved: Anthony Berecry; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. General update of Stratford operations – Mr May provide a general update on progress at the Stratford Mine Site.

The Committee discussed the closure status for Wenham Cox Rd and the recent article in the Gloucester Advocate. Mr May advised the new diversion along Wenham Cox Rd was opened to the public in 2018 following approval by MidCoast Council. The recommendation before Council currently is principally administrative and is related to the formal closure of the old section of road. The new section of road is required to be formally gazetted by way of a new road easement.

The Chair asked for an update on the proposed visit by the Mining & Energy Related Councils (MERC). Mr Plain advised the MERC annual general meeting was being held in Gloucester and a site visit to the Stratford Coal Mine was proposed on Thursday, 7th of November.

2. **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 to all Committee members.

Mr Greenwood asked if the maps for the remaining rural lease areas could be provided, such as Stratford North and the rehabilitated areas. Mr Plain advised that the original five maps which had been provided were the lease areas that went to tender in December 2018. Other lease areas have been renewed under existing agreements and these can also be provided. Mr Greenwood asked if the names of the leases can be provided for neighbouring landholders so there is a known point of contact. Mr Plain advised this could be provided to the CCC members and to neighbouring landholders on request. Mr Clarke indicated the details should be limited to names only for privacy reasons.

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

3. **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.

Mr Plain advised ongoing engagements have been held with Drew Morris (MCC) regarding the integration of biodiversity connectivity projects including areas where biodiversity conservation areas extend across Council road reserves. Vegetation mapping GIS files have been supplied to MCC to assist with fine scale mapping projects including Koala ARKS. Mapping files cover the Stratford and Duralie mine sites, offset areas and surrounds.

4. **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.

The Chair advised Lyndie Hepple and Paul De Szell were unable to attend the meeting, however the annual financial report from Council was supplied prior to the meeting. The Chair advised the report would be forwarded to the Committee members for review and discussion at the next meeting.

***New Action Item 2:** MidCoast Council 2019 annual financial report on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions to be discussed at the meeting in February 2020.*

6. Correspondence

Correspondence is listed in the CCC meeting agenda.

Stratford East Dam water release

The Chair provided copies of the letters sent to DPIE and the EPA, along with their responses, regarding the consideration of controlled water releases from the Stratford East Dam.

The Departments' responses confirmed both the Development Consent conditions and the Environment Protection Licence conditions restricted the release of any mine related water from the Stratford Coal Mine including the Stratford East Dam. The departments advised any changes would require a modification to the Development Consent and a variation to the EPL.

The Committee thanked the Chair for following up this correspondence. Mr Greenwood advised the access to the water body for firefighting purposes was a valuable asset to the local district.

Mr Plain advised the NSW Minerals Council had commenced a review into the use of mine related water across NSW and the restrictions imposed by licence conditions.

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 construction works for the Stratford East Open Cut commenced in September 2019.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and community programs: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:
 - a. The Committee discussed the air quality monitoring results.
 - b. The Committee discussed the new monitoring requirements for the Stratford East Open Cut which included monitoring points along Glen Rd.
 - c. The Committee discussed blasting road closures. Mr Greenwood suggested signage could be installed on Glen Rd to notify local traffic and through traffic on the day of blasting. Mr Plain advised this would be investigated. Road closures for Glen Rd would not be required for approximately 2-3 years.

8. General Business

1. Mr Greenwood advised some community members from the Stratford Village area had commented they had noticed changes to the lighting from the mine. Mr Plain advised a lighting audit had been completed which provide recommendations for changes and improvements to the setup of mobile and fixed lighting structures. Mr Plain advised LED lighting is used on the new light fittings which creates a white light rather than a yellow.
2. Mr Plain provided an update on the renewal of the Stratford Coal exploration leases. Mr Plain advised SCPL was proposing to lodge an application to convert some of the exploration lease areas to Assessment Lease. Some areas of the existing exploration lease may also be relinquished. Mr Greenwood asked if copies of the new lease areas could be supplied. Mr Plain advised the lease areas would be notified publicly following lodgement.
3. The Chair advised feedback had been sought from the Committee members regarding their opinions on the functioning of the Stratford CCC and if it is achieving the proposed objectives. The Chair thanked the Committee for their comments. This information would be supplied to DPIE and assist future management of the CCC. Mr Clarke suggested it would be beneficial to record in the Minutes matters which have been raised with Committee members through engagements with the local community. The Chair thanked the Committee members for representing their local community.

4. Mr Berecry raised with the Committee the potential to increase the diversity of representation in the CCC. The Committee members discussed the pro and cons of changes to the structure of the CCC including representation by stakeholder groups.
5. Meetings proposed for 2020:
5th February 2020
13th May 2020
12th August 2020
11 November 2019

No further business.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 5th February 2020.

The Chair thanked the Committee members and wished them and their families a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed at 10:55am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** SCPL to provide a copy of the maps showing rural lease areas for the remaining properties.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** MidCoast Council 2019 annual financial report on the spending of the Stratford Coal community enhancement contributions to be discussed at the meeting in February 2020.
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.