

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site and via video/teleconference
Wednesday 26th May 2021

Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Michael Plain	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Phillip Greenwood	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
Tom Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council		

Guests:

Drew Morris MidCoast Council Catchment Officer

1. Site Tour

A site inspection was undertaken following the meeting. Areas inspected included Stratford East, Stratford Main Pit and Avon North.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00am.

Apologies: Cr Karen Hutchinson; Mr Richard Clarke.

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, Industry & 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 24th February 2021 were confirmed.

Moved: Norm Bignell; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

1. **Action Item 1:** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment, updated Education Fund account spreadsheet, updated annual report to CCC with details regarding Stratford contributions.

The Chair advised MCC had not yet provided responses regarding the actions relating to the Education Support Fund or the annual report on Stratford contributions to Council. The Chair advised this action would be deferred.

Mr Plain advised MCC had provided information on the next Duralie Community Funding round which is currently open for applications. Further information is available on the Council's website.

2. **Action Item 2:** SCPL to provide an update to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.

Mr Plain advised that there has been no further progress on this action. Action item 2 to be deferred to coincide with future Life of Mine presentation to the CCC.

3. **Action Item 3:** The Chair to invite Drew Morris (MCC Catchment Officer) to present at the next suitable Stratford CCC meeting.

Mr Morris gave a presentation on the progress of the Karuah-Borland Landcare Project which is partially funded by the Duralie catchment contributions to MidCoast Council. Mr Morris provided an update on each of the projects which have followed on from the original Karuah River Catchment Management Plan. These include the Branch/Karuah Catchment Management Grants, Beyond the Shed Project and a Major Demonstration Project. Mr Morris' presentation is attached to these minutes.

Mr Berecny asked if Council were implementing similar works in the Avon/Manning Catchment. Mr Morris advised a Manning River Catchment Management Plan was currently being developed. Mr Morris suggested the senior ecologist involved in this work may be able to attend a future CCC meeting to provide an update.

***New Action Item 1:** The Chair to invite MCC Ecologist or Catchment Officer to present at a future Stratford CCC meeting information on the Manning Catchment Management Plan and projects.*

4. **Action Item 4:** Blasting location to be added the CCC presentation in the blasting results section.

Blasting locations have been added to CCC presentation.

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Cullen advised operations continued in Avon North, Stratford East, Roseville West pit and BRN. Clearing operations have continued to advance the Stratford East Pit further south. Coking and thermal coal production volumes are included in report.
2. Environmental & community activities including monitoring and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Plain outlined the impact of the March 2021 flood event on the Stratford water balance and impact to mining operations. Mr Plain advised mining delays had been experience during the wet weather and also after the rain event to allow for dewatering of operational areas. Additionally,

mining in the Roseville West Pit had ceased and is currently being used for water storage. The committee discussed any potential for controlled release during flooding events. Mr Plain advised that SCPL is a nil discharge site and doesn't currently have permission to release water under any circumstances.

Mr Greenwood queried blasting activities that were conducted on 20th April 2021. Mr Greenwood explained that the blast was later in the day and more noticeable than usual. Mr Cullen explained that due to environmental factors (rain) the blast had been conducted later in the day. Mr Cullen commented that the potential reason for the blast being more noticeable at Mr Greenwood's property may have been the proximity of the blast at the southern end of Stratford East. Mr Lowrey also commented he had noticed the blast.

Mr Greenwood noted that he had observed broadleaf paspalum infestations on Yancoal owned properties in areas which had been identified and treated several years ago. Mr Plain explained that the rural lease agreements include weed management requirements which are conducted by the Leasees. In other areas, such as the biodiversity properties, SCPL still coordinates the weeds management activities. Mr Plain acknowledged that further ongoing weed control work was still required.

8. General Business

1. Mr Plain outlined environmental incidents that had occurred during the March 2021 flood event. This included descriptions of sediment dam overflows and the haul road culvert breach. Mr Lowrey queried whether SCPL intends to increase the water capacity of the sediment dams in order to reduce the likelihood of these spills reoccurring. Mr Plain explained that these sediment dams are designed to 1:20 year rain event and to increase the size of these dams would increase the clearing of vegetation required and the environmental impact would outweigh any potential benefit.

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Wednesday 11th August 2021.

Meeting closed at 10:30am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

1. ***New Action Item 1:*** The Chair to invite MCC Ecologist or Catchment Officer to present at a future Stratford CCC meeting information on the Manning Catchment Management Plan and projects.
2. ***New Action Item 2:*** MidCoast Council to provide responses to actions from the meeting held 10 February 2021. This includes Education Fund commitment, updated Education Fund account spreadsheet, updated annual report to CCC with details regarding Stratford contributions.
3. ***Deferred Action Item:*** SCPL to provide an update to MCC regarding the draft Water Reuse Order and Water Reuse Exemption as prepared by the EPA.
4. ***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.