

Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site
Thursday 11th August 2022

Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Lauren Byrne	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council	Cr Katheryn Smith	MidCoast Council

Guests:

Nil

1. Site Tour

Site tour was postponed due to wet conditions.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00am.

The Chair introduced Lauren Byrne, the new Environmental Advisor at the Stratford Coal Mine for the Stratford Coal CCC.

Apologies: Mr Michael Plain, Mr 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, Industry & Environment.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 5th May 2022 were confirmed.

Moved: Cr Katheryn Smith; Seconded: Norm Bignell.

5. Business Arising from Previous 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. Invoicing for the 2021 Development Consent contributions to MidCoast Council (MCC) have now been received and are up to date.

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda.

Correspondence from the community regarding the new Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) was welcomed. Comments were received and are currently being taken onboard for inclusion in the next review of the RMP.

Mr Kirkwood invited the Stratford Mine CCC to conduct an impromptu site tour as weather has made site inaccessible to the CCC Committee.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at Mine: Mr Thomas Kirkwood advised mining operations continued in Avon North and Stratford East Open Cuts. Minor backfilling on the BRN pit continued in Q2 2022. Mining in Q2 has been impacted by weather, mainly due to the take-on of water from high rainfall events. Blasting has now ceased in the Stratford East Pit.

There is now a Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) available for SCM (replaces the MOP) and the Stratford Annual Review was accepted in May by DPIE (now available on Stratford Coal website).

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 Philip Greenwood commented on the increased average of dust levels at the Bramley depositional dust monitoring site. Mr Kirkwood replied that the elevated, but still low dust levels are due to the proximity of the monitoring location to the unsealed portion of the Bucketts Way and analysed data shows no correlation to site based activities.

SCPL has acknowledged that there have been comments from the community relating to perceived elevated noise levels to the west of the operation. Mr Kirkwood stated there has been no formal complaints from the community and no non-compliances have been recorded from the monthly monitoring. Mr Kirkwood continued that the likely source of noise is the recently commenced dumping activities at Roseville West Pit. Mine OCE's are aware of potential noise issues and are actively managing noise.

Mr Kirkwood presented to the CCC that scheduled rehabilitation works have been put on hold due to high rainfall events and increased water holdings within in pit water storages.

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill inquired about the Cadaghi Tree and its impacts to the local environment. Mr Greenwood replied that it is a highly invasive species and has negative impacts to native bees. Cr Smith raised the question if it is likely to have impacts to The Glen Nature Reserve and Mr Greenwood replied that he isn't aware of the Cadaghi Tree being that far east.

Mr Kirkwood stated that the RMP and other mine closure documents were successfully submitted prior to the August 1st deadline and requested that the CCC provides feedback on how mine closure details are presented going forward. Mr Greenwood requested that any significant changes, e.g. schedules or planning, are promptly dictated to the CCC.

Mr Anthony Berecry asked SCM if they are aware of an agreement for Minerals X to utilise the SMC CHPP. Mr Kirkwood responded that he has not been informed of an agreement between Stratford Coal and third parties for use of the SMC CHPP.

Mr Berecry asked Stratford Coal for information on any finalised studies regarding the use of hydropower activities at Stratford Coal Mine. Mr Kirkwood stated that he was not aware of any completed studies.

Mr Ryan Fenning queried a statement in the new RMP relating to contaminated lands and if any additional approvals are required for the mine to remediate contamination on site and/or truck it off site. Mr Kirkwood responded that there is no bioremediation facility currently on site, the proposed bioremediation methods at Stratford are beneficial to site and are covered under current approvals.

Mr Greenwood and the CCC collectively acknowledged the success at SCM regarding community consultation and that the mine has had zero complaints in the last three months. Mr Greenwood and Ms MacDonald-Hill stated that all efforts are recognised and appreciated. Mr Greenwood stated the complexity, knowledge and collaborative effort between SCM and the Stratford Mine CCC is to be acknowledged and that it is a great example of a combined team effort.

In response to concerns raised in the last CCC meeting, Cr Smith proposed that the Stratford Education Support Fund should introduce new ways to reach a broader community. Mr Kirkwood acknowledged and agreed that new ideas may help the education support fund reach new applicants. MCC stated that they are happy to help with ways to reach the broader local community. Cr Smith stated she will forward the details of the Gloucester Business Chamber to Mr Kirkwood. Mr Berecry asked SCPL when the community support fund ceases, Mr Kirkwood responded that the formal requirements cease at the end of mining, however, conversations are currently underway regarding whether community support continues post-closure.

Mr Richard Clarke asked Stratford Coal if the change in current economic conditions have impacted the mine, in particular if the mine is still planning for closure. Mr Thomas Kirkwood replied that the economic conditions are good news for Stratford Coal. Mr John Cullen agreed that the economic conditions have had a positive influence on the mine and that the increase in coal prices is helping the mine's approach towards closure. Mr John Cullen also stated that there are no changes proposed for closure of the Stratford Coal Mine.

8. General Business

Nil

Next Meeting date: Proposed 9:00am on Thursday 3rd November 2022.

The next meeting is to be held at the Stratford Mine Site and a site tour will be scheduled for the start of the meeting.

Meeting closed at 10:04am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

- 1. New Action Item 1: Cr Smith, MidCoast Council, to provide the details of the Gloucester Business Chamber to SCPL.***

2. **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.*