

## Meeting Minutes

### Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Stratford Mine Site  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

#### Attendees:

Ms Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Lauren Whitelaw	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Cr Katheryn Stinson	MidCoast Council
Jarrad Galvin	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Ryan Fenning	MidCoast Council
Graham Chase	Yancoal Australia	Lyndie Hepple	MidCoast Council

#### 1. Site Tour

Nil. Next site tour to be held before the February 2024 meeting.

#### 2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:02am.

Introductions: Jarrad Galvin – Community Liaison Officer, Stratford Coal and Graham Chase – Mine Closure Project Manager, Yancoal Australia.

Apologies: Mr Richard Clarke and Mr Anthony Berecry.

#### 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, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were confirmed.

Moved: Norm Bignell; Seconded: Kevin Lowrey.

#### 5. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

The CCC received advance copies of MCCC Annual Financial Report. The report was of a very high standard and the committee had no questions, other than to note their appreciation to Lindy Hepple for her efforts.

Action	Status
<b>New Action Item 1:</b> SCPL to provide Mr Lowrey with a copy of Plan 1 – Final Landform Features within the 2022 RMP.	Complete
<b>New Action Item 2:</b> SCPL to review and undertake Attended Noise Monitoring during times of predicted strong inversions over the next few months at locations of greatest impact.	Complete
<b>New Action Item 3:</b> SCPL to provide the indicative solar panel location figure for the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project.	Complete – Newsletter provided to Committee

<b>New Action Item 4:</b> <i>Committee to sign off on Terms of Reference (TOR) at November CCC meeting and all declarations and code of conduct finalised to meet department requirements.</i>	Complete
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## **6. Correspondence**

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting agenda.

The Chair explained that there was an email inviting consultation and comments on the upcoming Independent Environmental Audit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2023 and reminded the Committee to respond prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 to comments on the proposed audit scope.

## **7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

Progress at Mine: Mr Cullen advised mining operations continued in Avon North Open Cut. Backfilling of the Roseville West (RVW) Pit continued in Q3 2023. Mr Cullen also advised that SCPL is continuing supply to domestic scheme (Coal Power Stations). An update was also provided that in September 2023 SCPL's workforce was reduced and SCPL is currently operating with one excavator and seven to eight trucks.

1. Environmental & community activities including monitoring, mine closure and rehabilitation: (*refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail*). Items discussed by exception:

Mr Bignell asked what weed species were targeted in the recent BRN manual weed removal works? Mr Kirkwood responded that mainly tobacco bush, lantana and Privet were targeted.

Following on, Mr Bignell asked if Giant Parramatta Grass is still targeted in the weed control project? Mr Kirkwood responded that SCPL is currently considering a fungal control method for Giant Parramatta Grass but the species is not targeted in the current weed control program.

The committee then had a discussion on weed control methods and prices.

Cr Stinson asked how often the wild dog program is run at Stratford? Mr Kirkwood responded that the program is generally run annually unless monitoring shows an influx of feral animal species.

Mr Greenwood commented that there had been successful feral animal control work on his property however, would recommend that a low level of wild dogs in the area is a good thing to ensure predation on other feral species. Mr Kirkwood agreed and responded that the goal for the program is not to completely eradicate wild dogs. Mr Greenwood recommended that the program is rethought and a balance for wild dog control is achieved.

Mr Graham Chase presented an update on the Stratford Closure Planning activities which included an update of activities at both Stratford and Duralie sites.

Cr Stinson asked if there have been any expressions of interest in the purchase of the CHPP and Mr Chase responded that there are currently three expressions of interest since the CHPP was placed on the open market in early November.

Mr Greenwood asked what the proposed schedule of works are in regard to rehabilitating Stratford East Pit as it is currently used as water storage. Mr Chase replied that the rehabilitation of Stratford East Pit was delayed due to the rain events experienced in 2021 and 2022 at the Stratford Mine. Mr Chase stated that Avon North Pit would need to be finished mining (approx. mid-2024) to allow for

the storage of water currently within Stratford East Pit which would allow backfilling of the Stratford East Pit.

Mr Greenwood requested that ongoing presentations also include groundwater monitoring. Mr Kirkwood and the Committee agreed.

**New Action Item 1:** SCPL to include groundwater monitoring results in February CCC presentation.

Mr Greenwood raised discussion on the potential to access final water bodies during fires and droughts. He also asked if some priority could be put on getting formal sign off before the Gloucester Valley experiences drought again. Mr Kirkwood responded that the RFS has ability to access SCPL water at any time (via standpipes). The previous mentioned water supply approval for roadworks has been stalled since initial works and approval had been sought. Mr Kirkwood then mentioned that the delay was mainly due to increased localised rainfall and clarity was needed on the responsibility of water once it had left the Stratford Mine (between SCPL and Mid Coast Council (MCC)). Mr Fenning agreed to investigate MCCs current position on the water supply and liaise with Mr Kirkwood moving forward. Mr Kirkwood agreed that SCPL would look into the water supply approval for roadworks in 2024 and would liaise with MCC in regards to the legal requirements.

2. *Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH)*

Mr Kirkwood provided an update to the CCC on the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) project and Mr Galvin provided the Committee with a copy of the latest SREH Fact Sheet.

Cr Stinson recommended that the SREH Fact Sheets be numbered going forward to document the order of community updates. Mr Galvin agreed.

Mr Greenwood asked Mr Chase if the SREH project has considered the interaction between mine closure and the proposed rehabilitation plans? Mr Chase responded that the scope of works for mine closure assumes that the SREH does not go ahead. That being said, Mr Chase stated that the individual planning components have been considered.

Mr Greenwood then asked if Yancoal would be the proposed SREH operator? Mr Chase responded that he could not answer that question prior to the project gaining planning approval.

Additionally, Mr Greenwood stated that it needs to be acknowledged that the SREH is an employment generating project and that the previous comment in the Stratford CCC August minutes that the project could remove “1,200 head of cattle from the local community” did not represent the entire Committees point of view. The Committee then agreed that the SREH would be a strong local employment opportunity.

## **8. General Business**

Mr Norm Bignell made comment that the Committee would like to send thanks to Mr Michael Plain for 15 years of service with the Stratford CCC. The Committee agreed. The Chair then read an email from Mr Plain saying thank you to everybody on the CCC.

Mr Philip Greenwood stated that MCC is currently doing a revision of their LEP – and they are proposing to show all of the privately owned biodiversity offset areas with the Plan. He asked if MCC had been talking to Yancoal and stated that the SCPL offset areas should be placed in the LEP to heighten the importance of the offsets. Mr Kirkwood responded that he has not spoken with MCC in regard to biodiversity offset areas, however the data is available to multiple government bodies and provision of data could be supplied pending Yancoal approval.

**New Action Item 2:** SCPL to liaise with MCC regarding LEP consideration.

Mr Greenwood then raised two points on behalf of Mr Anthony Berecny; the first asked if there have been any more interactions between Minerals X and SCPL? Mr Kirkwood responded that to his knowledge there has been no interaction with Minerals X. The second point asked if there has been any progress on the work Mr Alan Andrews has been completing with local property divestment? Mr Kirkwood and Mr Chase responded that property divestment is a fairly long process and no update is currently available.

### **9. Proposed Meeting Schedule**

2023/2024 proposed meeting dates:

- 9:00am on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 9:00am on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- 9:00am on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August
- 9:00am on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Meeting closed at 10:24am

### **Summary of Action Items from this 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.*
2. **New Action Item 1:** *SCPL to include groundwater monitoring results in CCC presentations.*
3. **New Action Item 2:** *SCPL to liaise with MCC regarding placing offset areas into LEP.*