

## Meeting Minutes

### Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Stratford Mine Site  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

#### Attendees:

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Thomas Kirkwood	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
Graham Chase	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Anthony Berecny	CCC Member
Jarrad Galvin	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
James Hughes	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd		

#### 1. Site Tour

1. Site tour postponed due to weather. Postponed site tour to take place at 8:30am on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

#### 2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:08 am.

Apologies: Mr. John Cullen, Mr Phillip Greenwood, Mrs Lyndie Hepple, Mr Ryan Fenning.

Ms MacDonald-Hill stated that the council has not appointed an elected representative for the Stratford CCC, although Mrs Hepple and Mr Fenning will continue to be Council representatives on the committee. Mr Chase asked if Council had a reason for not electing a representative. Ms MacDonald-Hill replied they did not provide a reason.

#### 3. Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Ms MacDonald-Hill declared that she is the Independent Chair, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

The declarations of the Stratford Community Consultative Committee (CCC) members remain current.

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November were confirmed.

Moved by Mr Anthony Berecny; seconded by Mr Richard Clarke.

#### 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.

Ms MacDonald-Hill requested an embargo on the distribution of the MidCoast Council Annual Financial Report on Community Enhancement Funding by committee members. Ms MacDonald-Hill explained that the 2024 report was distributed to an organisation that was unsuccessful in applying for funding who misinterpreted that they would receive funding from Council when in fact they had

been unsuccessful in receiving funding and were understandably disappointed when this was pointed out.

2. **Action Item 1:** Review of meeting schedule

Ms MacDonald-Hill raised the potential for the meeting frequency to be changed to 6 monthly. Mr Kirkwood suggested that meetings could be held 6 monthly with a quarterly scheduled site inspection. Ms MacDonald-Hill confirmed Mr Greenwood's support of biannual meetings and stated that any member can request to request an extraordinary meeting, if needed, between scheduled meetings. Mr Lowrey, Mr Clarke, Mr Bignell all agreed with Mr Kirkwood's suggestion for meetings be held 6 monthly with quarterly scheduled site inspection.

3. **Action Item 2:** *An optional site tour to be held at the end of each CCC meeting (weather permitting)*

Site tour postponed to Wednesday 20/2/2025 due to weather.

**New Action Item 1:** *Postponed site tour to be held at 8:30am Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (weather permitting)*

## **6. Correspondence**

Details of correspondence was included in the meeting Agenda.

Ms MacDonald-Hill advised the committee that MidCoast Council had decided to no longer appoint an elected representative to the Stratford CCC and that MidCoast council staff members Ryan Fenning and Lyndie Hepple had been appointed to the committee.

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

SCPL presented the Company Reports and Overview of Activities:

1. Progress at the Mine: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Kirkwood presented an overview of current activities. Mr Kirkwood described the ongoing overburden rehandle at Bowens Road North (BRN) Pit and Roseville West (RVW) Pit to achieve final landform, the dewatering and backfilling of Stratford East Pit and earthworks around the CHPP prior to demolition works.

Mr Clarke asked how deep coal contaminated waste around the CHPP would be buried and if there is any chance it could be dug up in the future. Mr Chase replied that it will be placed in the Stratford East Pit similar to the PAF material, which will be capped with NAF material. Mr Clarke asked if the concrete subbases will be removed around the CHPP. Mr Chase replied they will be removed to a certain depth to avoid impacts to future land use.

Mr Lowrey asked if there would be a bund around the water bodies at completion of rehabilitation. Mr Kirkwood stated there are requirements that must be met to make the areas safe and secure which includes creating a barrier to exclude the public from the void areas, specific details are being finalised in the detailed mine closure planning. Mr Lowrey asked how far back they would be positioned from the water's edge. Mr Chase replied that the distance varies due to geotechnical details and final landforms and explained that it must be left safe for relinquishment.

2. Environmental Management and Reporting: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Kirkwood presented the overview of Environmental Reporting including the Stratford Mining Complex Annual Review 2024, Stratford Mining Complex Annual Biodiversity Report 2024 and the EPA undertook a routine 5 yearly Environmental Risk Assessment of EPL 5161 in November 2024.

Mr Kirkwood presented the current water management on site including dewatering and pumping locations. Mr Chase discussed the Roseville west and Old Main Pit dewatering to allow for reshaping activities. Mr Lowrey asked what the difference in pH levels in the voids would be. Mr Chase responded that due to the mixing of waters between voids throughout the operations the quality will be similar in all voids.

3. Mine Closure Planning: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Chase provided an update on the mine closure planning progress, with a focus on detailed mine closure studies, reshaping BRN, Roseville West and Main Pit, Stratford East and Codam rehandle and reshaping, Rehabilitation, CHPP and Rail Loop.

Ms MacDonald-Hill asked if there has been any interest in the sale of the CHPP. Mr Chase stated that some components will be taken to other Yancoal sites. There was some interest in the whole plant some time ago, but that did not proceed.

Mr Lowrey asked what the plan is for Parkers Pit. Mr Chase replied that it will remain as a water storage for water management while works are taking place around the CHPP then it will be partially backfilled and used as a sediment dam before being filled and rehabilitated to final landform.

4. Community Complaints: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Kirkwood provided the overview of Community Complaints. Mr Kirkwood discussed a noise complaint and detailed the operational response from the operational team.

5. Community Programs: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Galvin provided the overview of Community Programs and stated that the Community Support Program (CSP) closed in September. 37 applications were received with 32 being successful in receiving over \$106 000 in funding. A Presentation event was held in January. Mr Galvin stated that the Education Support Fund (ESF) closed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February with application being reviewed in February 2025.

6. Stratford Renewable Energy Hub Update: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Galvin provided an update of the SREH. Mr Galvin stated that Yancoal is currently preparing a Response to Submissions Report to address issues raised by the community and government agencies during public exhibition of the EIS.

Mr Lowrey asked if the project was economically viable and whether a decision has been made if the project will go ahead. Mr Galvin replied the project is still currently in the approval process. A general discussion was held around the process and current status. Ms MacDonald-Hill commended Stratford

Coal on the tri-annual newsletters. Mr Galvin replied that there has been a lot of positive feedback regarding the newsletters.

## **8. General Business**

There was no further General Business.

## **9. Proposed Meeting Schedule**

2025 proposed meeting dates:

- 15<sup>th</sup> May site visit - 8:30am
- 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025 CCC meeting - 9am
- 13<sup>th</sup> November site visit - 8:30am

Meeting closed at: 10:05 am.

## **Summary of Action Items from this meeting**

***New Action Item 1: Postponed site tour to be held at 8:30am Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025***