

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Stratford Coal Mining Complex	Reporting Period:	January - December 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	Thomas Kirkwood

1. Executive Summary

The Stratford Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is a long established committee initiated in 1995 as part of the Stratford Coal Mine Development Consent approval. With the subsequent approval of the Stratford Extension Project, the Committee members oversee the Stratford Mining Complex in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The mine's area of operation is a 1,500 ha site of former grazing land, east of The Bucketts Way and situated between the villages of Craven and Stratford.

The committee comprises:

- five local community representatives;
- two Mid Coast Council representatives (elected and staff);
- two Stratford Coal representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

The Committee meets quarterly, although as with the previous year, Covid-19 impacted on the meeting schedule. As a result, the February and May meetings were a combination of limited attendance numbers and via tele/video conferencing. The August and November meetings were conducted via tele/video conferencing only. A lot of the technology challenges that were part of the 2020 round of meetings with limited reception and connectivity were overcome and committee attendance numbers remained high.

There has been no change in the committee members' representation for a considerable time, a major contributing factor to the efficacy of the committee. The community members are well known and respected within the local community and a good rapport exists amongst them and with the mine personnel. Relationships are very cordial. The knowledge by staff of the mine's operation and ongoing high standard of pre-meeting information reports and comprehensive presentations ensures a proficient, well informed community consultative committee.

The Committee has a robust relationship with the MidCoast Council, a staff member attends every meeting, as is often the case with the elected representative, Council schedule permitting. Much has been gained from this close relationship, particularly with the reconciliation of long outstanding matters carried over from the former Gloucester Council's reporting of funding received as part of the Stratford Mine's community enhancement contributions. The Stratford Education Fund, community works programs and road maintenance are part of the comprehensive annual report from Council which also includes the developer contributions from Stratford's sister mine Duralie. The Community Development Coordinator has developed a wide ranging reporting format,

very acceptable to both the Stratford and Duralie Committees and attends the November meeting each year to present. Her efforts have received accolades from both the Stratford and Duralie CCCs.

For the reporting period and despite Covid-19 restrictions, the committee had three invited speakers from the MidCoast Council. As previously mentioned, the Community Development Coordinator presented the Annual Financial Report to the November 2021 meeting.

Council's Catchment Officer presented to the May meeting on the Karuah-Borland Landcare Project, which is partially funded by the Duralie catchment contributions as part of the original Karuah River Catchment Management Plan. With Council and the Catchment Officer's proactive approach and the benefit of careful planning and seed funding, this has led to the Branch/Karuah Catchment Grants, Beyond the Shed and a major demonstration project. The community are actively involved in these projects.

Consequently, the Stratford Committee were interested to see what was occurring in the Avon/Manning River Catchment and the Council's Senior Ecologist addressed the November meeting on Council's newly developed Biodiversity Framework, the goals, responsibility and shared vision to 2030. As with the Catchment Officer's presentation, the committee was suitably impressed with Council's stewardship and protection of the environment.

Other topics of discussion for the reporting period also included:

- general environmental management and monitoring, including air quality, noise, surface water and groundwater
- weeds, pest and pasture management, including wild dog control
- community complaints and measures to mitigate ongoing impacts from blasting and lighting
- broader community engagement and community enhancement contributions to Council and allocation thereof
- progress at the mine and the Stratford Extension Project including proposed road closures
- coking/thermal coal production ratios
- Rehabilitation progress
- Biodiversity offset management strategy
- Successful Nest Box Program
- Yancoal land management, including rural leased lands
- Post mining land use and mine closure planning
- Progress on draft water reuse between Stratford Mine and MidCoast Council
- Covid-19 Site response

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- Committee meetings were held in the months of February, May, August and November via a combination of attendance on site and/or tele/video conference.

Committee site tours were restricted because of Covid-19. The May meeting undertook a site tour of Stratford East, Stratford Main pit and Avon North.

- No joint CCC meetings were held during the period, although the committee is appraised of Yancoal's sister operations at Duralie as the mine approaches end of life stages.

3. Key issues

The Stratford CCC continues its support for the long running Stratford Coal Education Program and the benefits it brings to the youth of the local community. It remains vigilant that the benefits of such funding, along with other community enhancement contributions and Yancoal Community Support Programs should flow through to those communities directly impacted by mining.

With greatly Improved annual reporting by MidCoast Council, the committee is well informed of key activities and funding expenditure, proposed future works and allocations of the community enhancement contributions received from Stratford and Duralie operations.

Community complaints of lighting and noise were raised with further discussion on what could be done to improve mitigation measures.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Stratford Coal Education and Yancoal Community Support Programs	Actively support ongoing success of Stratford Coal Education Program and Stratford Coal Community Support through CCC networks and media.	Ongoing.
Stratford Extension Project	Update management plans and include relevant changes to committee presentations for discussion at CCC meetings.	As and when required.
Biodiversity and Conservation Areas information exchange	GPS survey of access tracks used by emergency services and contract services completed. Information shared with Committee.	Available for future fire fighting. Integration of biodiversity connectivity projects with MidCoast Council planning. Ongoing.
Catchment Management Programs	MidCoast Council Catchment Officer and Senior Ecologist presentations to CCC meetings.	Increased information sharing and knowledge base between Council, Stratford Mine, CCC and the community. Catchment Management Coordinator to present to February 2022 meeting.

Community complaints	Review lighting compliance: installation of timer in heavy vehicle wash down bay. Lower wattage lights used. Lights turned off when not in use. Noise from blasting Noise monitoring	Monitor. Mine protocols established for lighting plant set up. Ongoing communication and education with personnel. Location now included in complaints summary. Early hours of day shift to be included at sites where higher predicted noise affectation is occurring.
Request for production tonnages split	Report on thermal/coking ratios	Included in reporting from February 2021.

1. Focus for next 12 months


The committee sets its meeting dates at the end of each calendar year for the ensuing year to avoid any known potential conflicts.

The planned activities for 2022 will continue to be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- to investigate potential opportunities to increase agricultural land capability whilst meeting rehabilitation requirements
- interest in management of Yancoal owned land, including rural lease areas
- bush fire control
- ongoing interest in Catchment Management Improvement works and biodiversity connectivity projects. MidCoast Council Senior Ecologist to present to February 2022 meeting
- The committee resumes its meeting schedule in February each year and will maintain a similar schedule as the previous year.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	February 17 2022.