

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
Stratford Mine Site  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025

**Attendees:**

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	CCC Chairperson	Richard Clarke	CCC Member
Robert Carter	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Kevin Lowrey	CCC Member
John Cullen	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Philip Greenwood	CCC Member
Jarrad Galvin	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd	Norm Bignell	CCC Member
Graham Chase	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd		
James Hughes	Stratford Coal Pty Ltd		

**1. Site Tour**

1. Scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 am.

The Chair welcomed Robert Carter, acting Environment and Community Superintendent. Robert introduced himself to the group.

Apologies: Mr Ryan Fenning, Mr Anthony Berecny.

**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, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were confirmed.  
Moved by Mr Norm Bignell; seconded by Mr Kevin Lowrey.

**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.*
2. **Action Item 1:** Site tour scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> November

**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 the Mine: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Cullen presented an overview of activities for the first half of the year, noting the focus on water management due to wet weather, rehandling of material at Stratford East, Co-Dam and Avon North, civil works around the CHPP, and the planned removal and rehabilitation of the rail loop later this year.

Mr Clarke asked if the rail loop overpass on the Bucketts Way would be removed. Mr Cullen confirmed that the overpass would be decommissioned. Mr Lowrey asked if the rail loop cutting would be backfilled to the natural contour and how water would be managed through the area. Mr Chase replied that the cutting would be reshaped to make safe and stable but not to the pre-mining natural contour and the detailed design for the area would inform how water is managed. Mr Clarke asked if the rail loop was publicly or privately owned infrastructure and if it needed approval for decommissioning by an act of parliament. Mr Cullen confirmed the rail loop is owned and controlled by Stratford Coal.

Mr Cullen reported works will soon commence to construct a flood bund around the Roseville West area later this year. Mr Lowrey asked if there would be a fence constructed around the area. Mr Carter confirmed stock fencing would be re-instated following the completion of work. Mr Greenwood asked to clarify the current use of the area to the west of the Roseville Void, Mr Hughes confirmed it is currently part of a rural licence and used for grazing. Mr Carter advised stock have been removed from the area while work occurs and that external boundary fencing remains in place.

Mr Cullen highlighted other civil works including the culvert replacement on the main coal haul road and the ongoing demolition works. Mr Lowrey raised early morning noise issues surrounding the demolition works. Mr Cullen acknowledged demolition activities can be loud and said ongoing works will be undertaken with consideration to the community and minimising impact.

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

Mr Carter presented an overview of environmental reporting including the regulator acceptance of the Stratford Mining Complex Annual Review 2024, which is available on the Stratford Coal Website. Mr Carter advised the committee of a site visit by the Resource Regulator as part of an industry-wide Targeted Assessment Program (TAP) focused on decommissioning activities.

Mr Carter presented an overview of the EPL 5161 Emergency Water Release Variation. Mr Bignell asked who, other than the CCC, had been notified of the release, particularly downstream landowners. Mr Carter advised that the release was approved by the EPA and assessed as having minimal impact. Mr Bignell noted that while water quality was not a concern, improved communication with downstream landowners about the source of the water would have been beneficial. Mr Greenwood stated he appreciated the CCC being notified prior to the release commencing.

3. Environmental Management Plans and Monitoring: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Carter provided an update on environmental monitoring. Mr Hughes confirmed that during attended noise monitoring in March there were three initial exceedances but no sustained noise exceedance. Mr Lowrey questioned the effectiveness of the attended monitoring program as it captures only a short time over a month while operations continue to occur outside this period and that the real time monitors must not be working. Mr Chase advised that the real time system is a management tool to help inform operations while attended monitoring is used to assess compliance. Mr Chase noted that attended monitoring requires a skilled operator to be accurate and to effectively separate the respective contributions from mining activities and from other noise sources.

Mr Greenwood asked if there were to be noise exceedance, what could potentially be the source of the noise. Mr Cullen said operational equipment has been working in multiple locations and on higher ground to undertake closure activities. Mr Greenwood asked if there were any complaints regarding the demolition of the CHPP. Mr Cullen confirmed there had been no complaints regarding the demolition works.

Mr Carter provided an overview of rehabilitation and biodiversity works, including 7 ha of topsoiling and seeding completed at BRN, with further works planned for spring. Mr Clarke asked what weeds had been targeted this year. Mr Hughes advised that recent weed control in the BRN rehabilitation area focused on tobacco bush and lantana and noted that higher than average rainfall in the first half of the year had limited site access.

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

Mr Chase presented an overview of mine closure planning, including the closure timeline, detailed studies, final land rehabilitation plans, environmental management plans and quarterly updates with the regulator.

Mr Lowrey asked if the SREH was included in the final land use planning. Mr Chase advised that the SREH is excluded from the closure planning as not approved, with integration to occur if approved.

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

Mr Carter provided the overview of Community Complaints. Mr Carter discussed a single noise complaint and detailed follow-up and the response from the operational team.

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

Mr Galvin presented on Community Programs. The 2026 Community Support Program (CSP) opened on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and will close on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The 2026 Education Support Fund (ESF) will open on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and close on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The Chair asked how many more years the ESF will continue. Mr Galvin advised that the ESF will continue until 2027 and the CSP until 2028.

7. Recruitment Update: (refer to CCC presentation available on website for further detail)

Mr Galvin provided an update on recruitment for mine closure activities at Duralie. Mr Greenwood asked how many people would be employed. Mr Cullen advised that approximately 25 personnel

will be employed, including supervisors, operators, and maintenance staff.

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

Mr Galvin provided an update on the SREH. Yancoal submitted a Response to Submissions Report in May. Government agencies have since provided comments and Yancoal is preparing additional information to address these.

**8. General Business**

There was no further General Business.

**9. Proposed Meeting Schedule**

- 13<sup>th</sup> November site visit - 8:30am

2026 proposed meeting dates:

- 12<sup>th</sup> February – 9:00am meeting and site tour
- 13<sup>th</sup> August – 9.00am meeting and site tour

Meeting closed at: 10:45 am.

**Summary of Action Items from this meeting**

*Nil actions*