

Stratford Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2025 Annual Report

CCC project name:	Stratford Coal Mining Complex	Reporting period:	January 1 to December 31 2025
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent contact:	Tom Kirkwood, Environment and Community Superintendent

1 Executive summary / introduction

The Stratford Community Consultative Committee began in 1995 as part of the consent of the Stratford Coal Mine Development. Following the approval of the Stratford Extension Project in 2015, the committee's role was expanded to cover the Stratford Mining Complex operations of 1,500 hectares situated east of The Bucketts Way between the villages of Stratford and Craven, within the MidCoast Council Local Government Area.

As mining ceased at Stratford in June 2024, decommissioning of the site and rehabilitation works towards mine closure are progressing and remain the main focus of the committee.

The committee is comprised of:

- Five local community representatives;
- One MidCoast staff representative and one alternate staff member;
- Two Stratford Coal representatives with attendance from other personnel as required;
- One independent Chairperson.

2 CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee reviewed its meeting cycle in February 2025 and as foreshadowed in the previous Annual Report, decided to reduce the meetings to biannual in view of the advanced stage of mine closure activities. However, the offer of optional site tours outside the meeting schedule was available for interested members.
- Topics discussed varied little from those of recent years; air quality, rehabilitation and biodiversity management, complaints register, progress of environmental management towards closure, including land and water management.

The site water management and the approval for a variation to the EPL for an emergency water release to manage extreme weather experienced during the year was discussed and led into safety and regulation around remaining water bodies and how this will be managed into the future with potentially increasing yearly rainfall.

Progress on rehabilitation activities and use of overburden for reshaping, the removal of the Coal Handling Preparation Plant and the rail loop and personnel recruitment to assist with mine closure activities and the visit by the Resource Regulator mid year in support of targeted assessment programs on decommissioning activities were all included in the August meeting. A timeline of progress and targets for both Stratford and Duralie is provided at each meeting.

Community sponsorship and support programs which benefited thirty two local groups and community initiatives and the Education Support fund providing ten apprenticeships, five Tafe courses and eight tertiary education scholarships were presented to the February meeting.

Updates on the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH) are included at each meeting. As stated previously, the SREH is not within the scope of this committee but remains of interest.

Informative newsletters were released by Stratford during April, July and December, to the committee and broader public on mine closure activities and progress for both the Stratford and Duralie Mines. This information is available on the Company's website.

- Meetings were held on site in February and August in the reporting year with site tours in February, May and November of rehabilitation and plant decommissioning. A fourth offer was declined. See photos below attached with committee members' permission.
- There is little variation in consistently high attendance at committee meetings. This is mainly attributed to the structure and topics of interest at the meetings and the ongoing quality of presentations and information provided and of course, mutual respect by all parties. The status quo of the committee, having retained its original thirty year plus membership, is unlikely to change as it approaches the final years of its tenure.
- The committee's Terms of Reference were updated to reflect the reduction in meeting cycle. All meeting minutes and presentations are updated to the company website within two weeks of each meeting.

2 Key Issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Mine Closure Planning	<p>Ongoing consultation with CCC and broader community on mine closure planning via websites and newsletters.</p> <p>Appointment of specialist staff to assist with ongoing community liaison.</p>	Ongoing liaison will support preparation of detailed mine closure planning and guide future consultation with all key stakeholders.

	Investigation of future land use and employment opportunities.	Future proposals and information will be discussed with the CCC as it evolves. An invitation extended to a representative from Yancoal Corporate to attend a 2026 meeting.
Rehabilitation Progress	Agenda item to each meeting. Updates included on webpage and newsletter.	Updates at each meeting and as required.
Site tours	To accommodate weather conditions on meeting days, alternate date options be offered – November 2024.	Site tours offered as option at each meeting, weather permitting. Alternate dates offered as necessary.
MidCoast Council Annual Financial Report on Community Enhancement Funding	Comprehensive Report provided by Council to CCC. (Resolution of Council to allocate 50% of contributions received from Stratford to the Education Fund and 25% of annual contributions for next two years to upgrade facilities within the Stratford area in consultation with committee.	Ongoing annual action.

2 Focus for 2026

- Continued comprehensive reporting on all company operations, including monitoring and environmental performance, any community complaints/responses.
- Progress on rehabilitation.
- Progress on mine closure planning and emerging options.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 17 2026.

