

Draft Meeting Minutes
Stratford Coal Community Consultative Committee Meeting
Stratford Mine Site
Thursday 13th August 2026

Attendees:

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

1. Site Tour

A site tour was undertaken prior to the meeting and included a visit to the former Co-Disposal area, Stratford East and Stratford East Dam Lookout, the rail loop rehabilitation area and the CHPP rehabilitation area.

2. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:48 am.

Apologies: Anthony Berecny and Ryan Fenning.

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 5th of February 2026 were confirmed.

Moved by Philip Greenwood; seconded by 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. **Ongoing Action Item:** An optional site tour to be held at the end of each CCC meeting (weather permitting).

6. Correspondence

Details of correspondence were 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 and highlighted the significant rehabilitation works completed and bulk material movements within the former western co-disposal area. Mr Cullen noted that operational activities during the second half of the year would primarily focus on the backfilling of the Stratford East Pit and rehabilitation across the site.

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

Mr Kirkwood presented an overview of environmental management and reporting.

Mr Kirkwood noted that the annual rolling average result recorded at Depositional Dust Gauge 9, located near Craven Village, found a potential exceedance of Development Consent SSD-4966 criteria. Mr Kirkwood explained an investigation had found that nearby rural land use had significantly influenced the results with the samples primarily biological matter including vegetation and insects during the period. Mr Lowrey asked what proportion of the sample comprised dust and biological matter. Mr Hughes advised that sample analysis typically indicated 65-75% biological matter and approximately 20% dust.

Mr Lowrey asked about the eastern highwall of the Old Main Pit and if further rehabilitation would occur. Mr Kirkwood explained that the eastern highwall would remain as is with further work to be completed on the Southern side to blend the two rehabilitated surfaces.

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

Mr Chase provided an update on mine closure planning and outlined the refined final landform design. Mr Chase explained that refinements were required due to the site not being developed to its originally approved extent.

Mr Chase presented the proposed outcomes associated with the refined final landform, including future land uses comprising grazing land, native vegetation and water storage areas. Mr Chase also outlined the proposed next steps in closure planning, including the staged review and update of relevant environmental management plans.

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

Mr Kirkwood provided an overview of community complaints and noted that one complaint had been received during the first half of the year relating to noise in the Roseville West pit dump and Co-disposal area.

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

Mr Galvin presented an update on Community Programs. Mr Galvin noted that the Community Support Program (CSP) will open on 17th August and close 15th September. Mr Galvin noted that the Stratford Coal Education Support Fund (ESF) will open on 23rd November and close 29th January with this year being the last year of funding for the program.

Mr Galvin advised that Community Support Program applications will now be submitted online through the GoodGrants portal. He noted that assistance would be available for applicants requiring support with the online application process.

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

Mr Galvin provided an update on the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub (SREH), noting that the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) granted approval for the proposed project in July. Mr Galvin noted that the project now required Federal approval and further commercial assessment from Yancoal.

Mr Kirkwood advised the committee local Members of Parliament had attended site to view the proposed project footprint. Mr Greenwood complimented Yancoal and Stratford Coal for the amount of information that has been made publicly available on the website and in the community newsletters.

8. General Business

Mr Lowrey expressed concerns regarding the proposed Stratford Renewable Energy Hub, noting his view that the original mine approval required the site being returned predominantly to agricultural grazing land following mining. Mr Clarke expressed support for Mr Lowrey's comments and his view that productive agricultural land in the area should remain consistent with surrounding land uses.

Mr Lowrey also raised concerns regarding the previous industrial land rezoning and potential future implications associated with that zoning. Mr Cullen acknowledged the views expressed by members and MR Kirkwood stated that the SREH project team would be made aware of the concerns raised.

Mr Greenwood advised the Committee of the establishment of the Craven Landcare Group. He asked whether representatives from Stratford Coal could present a short overview of the rehabilitation work at the Stratford mine and findings from the implementation of the biodiversity offset program to assist local landholders with similar environmental initiatives. Mr Kirkwood advised that the Stratford Environment and Community Team would be pleased to present relevant findings and showcase rehabilitation and offset management activities, with future engagement to be coordinated through Mr Kirkwood and Mr Greenwood.

Mr Clarke expressed support for the pumped hydro component of the Stratford Renewable Energy Hub, noting its relatively low disturbance footprint and the opportunity to utilise existing mining infrastructure.

9. Proposed 2027 Meeting Schedule

Proposed meeting dates:

- 18th February 2027
- 19th August 2027

Meeting closed at: 11:44 am.

Summary of Action Items from this meeting

Nil actions