

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Gullen Range Wind Farm

Date:	3 rd May 2017
Location:	CWA Rooms Spring Street Crookwell NSW 2583
Time:	6.00pm to 8.00pm
Attendance:	Peter Gordon (Chair) Dimity Taylor (Community Representative) Charley Barber (Community Representative) Rosemary Howe (Community Representative) Derek Powell (New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd) (NGRWF) Steph Froggatt (NGRWF) <u>Observers:</u> Isabel Nelson (NGRWF) Leona Evans (Community Member) Charlie Prell (Australian Wind Alliance)
Apologies:	Louise Wakefield (GMC) Councillor Paul Culhane (ULSC)

Introduction by Chair (Peter Gordon):

- Minutes from 2nd March 2017 were confirmed by the Committee and distributed by the Chair on 23rd March 2017 in accordance with the CCC Guidelines and process agreed at previous meeting.
- Challenge raised by Charley (Barber) to the confirmation of the previous minutes. Charley confirmed that he did not believe the minutes reflected input by both himself and Rosemary during the 2nd March meeting.
- Charley requested that it be reflected in the minutes that both Charley and Rosemary raised concerns in the previous meeting regarding the quality of landscape planting for project and concerns regarding ‘position of the Chair’ as an independent in the meeting process.
- Peter addressed Charley’s concerns by reaffirming, as captured in the meeting minutes from 2nd March 2017, that a process for confirming minutes between meetings was agreed by all Committee members at the previous meeting. This process was followed in confirming the previous minutes and a period for comment had been provided to all Committee members prior to finalisation (in accordance with the Guidelines).
- No changes to declared pecuniary or other interests confirmed by Committee members.
- Question raised by Dimity whether the pecuniary interests will be made public. To be followed up and confirmed by Peter.

- No correspondence received since previous meeting.

Project Update (Derek Powell and Steph Froggatt):

Bird and Bat Monitoring:

- Final version of the annual bird and bat monitoring report has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and is available on the Gullen Range Wind Farm (GRWF) website www.gullenrangewindfarm.com
- Final report included two additional voluntary months of monitoring. Extension was to ensure the capture of a period in the year when bat activity was at a heightened level on the wind farm.
- In response to questions from the Committee, Steph confirmed:
 - No threatened bird species were found during the 2016/17 carcass searches.
 - 3 wedged tailed eagles were found during the 2016/17 survey period.
 - A total of 567 turbine searches were undertaken during the monitoring period – a total of 23 bird carcasses were found. All carcasses were common woodland or farmland species.
 - The specialist consultant was Brett Lane & Associates (BL&A). In accordance with the Project Approval BL&A have been approved by the DPE to work on GRWF.

Conservation Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) / Offset Site:

- A pest baseline survey currently in progress in the PVP /offset area. 12 motion sensor cameras have been set up to capture pest presence and activity. Method developed in consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and Local Land Services (LLS).
- A weed control contractor has been engaged to commence weed control in the PVP / offset site. Initial focus on serrated tussock (Class 4 declared) control. Plans in progress for sifton bush (local pest to the site) and blackberry control (Class 4 declared).
Charley (Barber) suggested herbicide treatment for sifton bush. Steph confirmed that due to restrictions in the PVP conditions, and the density of infestation, that slashing of sifton is planned.
- 30 nesting boxes have been installed in the PVP / offset site. Required by the PVP conditions to offset the loss of hollows / habitat during construction. Process of nesting box selection and fitting undertaken by specialist consultant.

Cultural Heritage

- Aboriginal artefacts salvaged during construction phase have been reinterred back on the wind farm. Burial location selected is within the PVP / offset site. The burial was attended and led by members of the Pejar LALC. The site will be formally registered with OEH.

Community Enhancement Program:

- Community Fund has just closed for the next funding period. Applications received will now progress to review stage. Process is being led by ULSC who administers the fund.
- School visits are being progressed. Crookwell High School has requested to visit the wind farm as part of their Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program that the school initiated at the beginning of 2017. Site visit scheduled for 23rd May.
- Charley (Barber) reconfirmed his position (2nd March meeting) that he did not support site visits by schools. Charlie requested information on the GRWF schools program to be emailed through to him by NGRWF. Derek confirmed information can be sent through as requested.

- Clean Energy Programme – Approximately 65 applicants have completed Stage 1 of the Program. 22 Stage 2 applications (for solar hot water systems, solar PV systems, double glazed windows or wall insulation) have been approved so far with 5 installations fully completed. Q1 of 2017 no applications were received. Q2 2017 total of 2 applications received to date. 15 deposits have been paid to suppliers for Stage 2 applications The Clean Energy Program’s Target Allocation Value (TAV) is indexed to CPI. The TAV of funding for Stage 2 in 2017 is \$6,610 (up from \$6,500 in 2016).
- Out of hours maintenance works policy for the wind farm has been developed and is on website. Pulls together existing conditions and commitments from project documentation and approvals in to a single policy.
- Detachment of a blade occurred in March 2017. Reported to Safe Work NSW.

Complaints Register:

- No change in status on the complaints register. No further complaints have been received in the period between the meetings.

Update from Community Representatives:

- Advice from Charley (Barber) that the turbines near the substation was particularly ‘intrusive’. Derek confirmed NGRWF would follow up on this advice as a complaint and investigate in accordance with the complaints procedure for the project.
- Dimity confirmed that John Klem has been contacted by the DPE. Dimity reconfirmed support for representation by a host landholder on the Committee. Peter confirmed he would contact Mr Klem.
Rosemary and Charley (Barber) reaffirmed their position that they did support wind farm hosts forming part of the Committee.
- Dimity confirmed distribution of the minutes and advice regarding the CCC meeting time to the Bannister Community email address list.
- Peter invited Leona Evans (Community Member) to speak. Leona raised the following concerns:
 - Changes to the intersection between Kialla and Range Road. Changes made to facilitate delivery of blades to the project site. Intersection has not been changed back and is safety concern.
NGRWF committed to following up with Goldwind to confirm when the intersection would be corrected.
 - The lack of clear signage at the turn off to Kialla Road from Range Road to mark entry to Kialla Road. Leona confirmed this issue has previously been raised to ULSC.
Not directly linked to the wind farm. NGRWF will seek to raise to ULSC but upgrades subject to ULSC.
- Leona raised concerns regarding the noise experienced at the Evans property (Cuddyong). Concerned that there has been ‘no response’ from NGRWF to complaints being made to date.
Derek confirmed that monitoring of operational noise compliance was undertaken previously and included the placement of a noise monitor very near Leona’s residence. The monitoring undertaken confirmed the wind farm was within the required operational noise limits. The monitoring report is on the website and had previously been communicated to Mr and Mrs Evans.

Derek confirmed further avenues for Leona to pursue her complaint had been provided to Leona (including provision of Wind Farm Commissioner details).

Rosemary and Charley confirmed that noise issues are experienced in a similar manner at their property in Bannister. Rosemary and Charlie offered to speak further with Leona regarding potential options available with respect to Leona's concerns.

- Peter invited Charlie Prell (Australian Wind Alliance) to speak. Charlie spoke about other project CCC forums (including variability based on changes in planning law). Charlie expressed view favouring a solutions focus to remedy concerns held by the community and to address potential impacts on nearby landholders. There was discussion on different rent models associated with wind farms. Charlie expressed concern at the 'lack of leadership' shown by the ULSC with respect to wind development.

Peter requested Charlie email through an overview of the information provided to allow Peter to share with other stakeholders (including other CCC's).

Charlie thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak at the CCC.

- Rosemary cited community concerns on the impact to property prices in the area local to the wind farm and cited advice she has received from real estate agents regarding impacts.

Derek confirmed that a report regarding the potential impact on property values from wind farms has been undertaken by the DPE and is on the DPE website.

Charley (Barber) detailed concept of 'swamping'. Charley identified assessment should be undertaken on the basis of impact on those close to projects vs an assessment of average property value impact from a project across a wider district (including property away from projects).

Any Other Business:

- Peter requested that the complaints register be circulated with the agenda moving forward.

Timing for Next Meetings:

- Next meeting confirmed for Wednesday 28th June 2017 starting at 5.30pm.
- Following meeting Wednesday 6th September 2017 starting at 5.30pm.
- Locations for June and September meeting to be confirmed by wind farm (NGRWF).

Next Meeting: 5.30pm Wednesday 28th June 2017

Acronym:	Item:
NGRWF	New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd
ULSC	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
GMC	Goulburn Mulwaree Council
PVP	Property Vegetation Plan
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
LLS	NSW Local Land Services
DPE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment
CCC	Community Consultative Committee
TAV	Target Allocation Value