

**Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Gullen Range Wind Farm**

<b>Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
<b>Location:</b>	CWA Rooms Spring Street Crookwell NSW 2583
<b>Time:</b>	5.30pm to 7.30pm
<b>Attendance:</b>	Peter Gordon (Chair) Rosemary Howe (Community Representative) Charley Barber (Community Representative) Dimity Taylor (Community Representative) Louise Wakefield (GMC) Councillor Paul Culhane (ULSC) Derek Powell (New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd) (NGRWF) Isabel Nelson (NGRWF) Alice Patterson (NGRWF) Diana Forrester (OPF Consulting on behalf of NGRWF) Elizabeth Picker (OPF Consulting on behalf of NGRWF) Chris Emmett (Observer) Meryl Emmett (Observer) Shane Mortimer (Observer) Paul Hodgkinson (Observer) David Brooks (Observer) John Benjamin (Observer) Tom Appel (Observer) John Mendl (Observer)
<b>Invited Guests</b>	Andrew Dyer (National Wind Farm Commissioner) and Leigh Barker from his office.
<b>Apologies:</b>	None

**Introduction by Chair (Peter Gordon)**

**With the agreement of the Committee the normal business of the CCC was held over to provide time for a presentation from the national Wind Farm Commissioner.**

- The Wind Farm Commissioner, Andrew Dyer was introduced by the Chair. Andrew Dyer gave a presentation about his role, achievements to date, wind farm information, complaint statistics, complaint handling procedures and his annual report and reforms. There were several questions asked of Andrew Dyer during and after his presentation including:
  - Acoustic standards and monitoring/measurements. Comments made by an observer included that Decibels (DB) were not a suitable acoustic variable to measure. Comments by observers.
  - It was difficult to complain about wind farms that were compliant under their Project Approval conditions, especially conditions that were prescribed/set a long time ago.
  - Whether new noise standards could be applied retrospectively to existing wind farms.
  - An observer made a comment about native title with respect to wind farm developments.
  - Due to travel demands the Commissioner was not able to stay and respond to the many questions and matters of interest to the CCC members and the many observers who chose to attend the meeting.
- The Commissioner left the meeting at 6.30, at which time the normal work of the committee resumed.
- In a footnote to the minutes it is noted that CCC members were not satisfied that the Commissioner was not able to stay and spend more time at the meeting. The Chair has noted this and will seek another time for the Commissioner to return to Crookwell.

#### Conflicting and Pecuniary Interests.

- Declaration of and potential changes to pecuniary interests by Dimity Taylor. Dimity Taylor is moving house and may soon own property associated with a wind farm easement. The Chair has sent this information to the Department of Planning and Environment for review.

#### Minutes of Previous Meeting.

- Minutes from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were confirmed by the Committee members.

#### Correspondence

The Chair noted that Dimity had written to the CCC advising of her family land holdings changes which required a declaration of a possible pecuniary interest. The Chair advised that he had written to DPE on the matter and until DPE advised otherwise that Dimity would remain a community representative on the CCC.

#### **Business arising from the previous minutes:**

##### Actions were reviewed:

- Nest box media release has been sent to media.
- Information was provided on how pigs are treated when trapped by Landcare Group Australia on behalf of NGRWF.
- An email response, provided to Mr Brook's questions about the blade detachment incident involving a wind turbine near Bannister, was read out to the CCC. Mr Brooks asked for more information. NGRWF confirmed the blade fell very close to the base of

the turbine. **Action: NGRWF to ask a Goldwind representative to attend the next CCC meeting to comment on the incident.**

- NGRWF contacted the council about the presence of thistles along Prices Lane and Bannister Lane, which the council were going to look into. **Action: NGRWF to arrange removal of the thistles along Prices Lane/part of Bannister Lane, with council permission.**
- A draft Community Information Plan (CIP) has been prepared by Diana Forrester of OPF Consulting on behalf of NGRWF, which is described below.
- Diana Forrester of OPF was introduced to the meeting by Derek Powell. OPF Consulting have been engaged by NGRWF to complete the CIP that has been discussed at previous meetings. The Draft CIP was presented by Diana Forrester to the CCC Meeting. When preparing the report, Ms Forrester used feedback from the previous CCC meetings, the CCC questionnaire responses and the original CIP. The draft CIP objectives, communication tools, and stakeholders were discussed. Responses included:
  - Mr Barber said that NGRWF should present both the pros and cons of wind farms to schools.
  - An observer who was not introduced to the meeting commented that NGRWF could provide more data about power used and generated by the wind farm.
  - There was a brief discussion about the wind farm decommissioning process.
  - **Action: CCC Members to provide feedback to the Chair on the draft report by mid-January; NGRWF to finalise and re-circulate CIP at start of February and share the draft with Upper Lachlan Shire and Goulburn Mulwarree Councils before NGRWF sends the final CIP to the Department of Planning and Environment. The approved CIP would be evaluated in 12 months' time at a CCC meeting.**

#### **Issues Identified by the Local Community or the Local Government Representatives**

- No issues identified by the local government representatives.
- Issues identified by the local community included (1) the blade incident which is described above and (2) Mr Barber wished to put forward a complaint about landscaping works on behalf his neighbour. **Action: Mr Barber to send the complaint to NGRWF.**

#### **Company reports and Overview of Activities (Derek Powell and Isabel Nelson)**

- NGRWF has provided a new communication tool on its website enabling the public to subscribe to operational updates and general community updates.
- A Wedged-table eagle carcass was found in the vicinity of a wind turbine on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Department of Planning and Environment has been notified and a financial contribution to WIRES has been made, which is required by condition 2.37 of the Project Approval.
- An update was given on progress in the PVP (Property Vegetation Plan) area required under condition 2.35 of the Project Approval.
- An update on the Clean Energy Program (CLEP) was provided. Mr Barber mentioned it was challenging to find a second supplier to quote for his application. **Action: NGRWF to provide Mr Barber with the CLEP Supplier List and general assistance with his Stage 2 application.**

- An update on the wind and solar farm tours for the general public was given, noting the first tour took place in October.
- A recent visit by students from Goulburn High School was mentioned.
- An update was provided on the wind farm landscape screening and the associated Individual Landscape Plans (ILP), including letters that had been sent out notifying residents that their two-year landscape maintenance period was coming to an end. Information about the Clean Energy Program had also been sent with the letters.
- NGRWF notified the CCC that a development application was submitted to Upper Lachlan Shire Council in November 2017 for an underground 33kV electricity connection to the existing Gullen Range Wind Substation. An extension to the Gullen Range Wind Farm substation is part of this application, the extent of which was discussed at the previous meeting. The development application is now on exhibition at the Council and on their website.
- No issues arising from site inspections.
- NGRWF has recently submitted the Annual Environmental Protection Licence return. NGRWF was compliant with all aspects.
- Monitoring for Wedged-tailed eagle nesting locations is being undertaken annually. This monitoring was recently completed and the monitoring report would be finished next week.
- An update on the complaints register was given. One complaint had been received since the previous meeting.

#### **General business**

- No general business.

#### **Next Meeting**

- Confirmed for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 starting at 5.30pm.