

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting Minutes

Gullen Range Wind Farm

Date:	Wednesday 19 September 2018
Location:	CWA Hall Spring Street Crookwell
Time:	5.30pm to 7.10pm
Attendance:	Peter Gordon (Chair) Charley Barber (Community Representative) Rosemary Howe (Community Representative) Dimity Taylor (Community Representative) Derek Powell (New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd) (NGRWF) Leo Pearce (Asset Manager -NGRWF) Diana Forrester (OPF Consulting on behalf of NGRWF)
Apologies:	Councillor Paul Culhane from Upper Lachlan Shire (ULSC) Scott Martin, Business Manager from Goulburn Mulwaree Council

Introduction by Chair (Peter Gordon)

- Meeting commenced at 5:30pm
- Absence of Council representatives noted

Conflicting and Pecuniary Interests

- None

Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Minutes from 13th June 2018 were approved and are on the website.

Business arising from the Previous Minutes

- CB asked the minutes outline his disappointment with the information provided by Goldwind at the previous meeting.

ACTION items from Previous Minutes

1. GRWF management to consider whether it may be possible to plant more trees on the bank along the western side of the substation area. (Leo Pearce)

- RH provided feedback on her recent review of the tree plantings. She reported a small gap – but the other trees are growing well.
 - LP explained the gap is under the 330kV power lines where trees can't be planted. LP offered to go with her to check the plantings.
2. Explanation about the blade loss was not satisfactory and the operator has been again asked to explain to the satisfaction of the committee.
 - More information was provided by DP later in the meeting.
 3. GRWF management to investigate the maintenance of the trees on Ken Ikin's property. (Leo Pearce)
 - DP provided maps of where the trees were planted to screen the substation. These plantings are now up to three meters high.
 4. LP to investigate whether the electricity generated from the site could be reported to the CCC for each quarter.
 - Monthly power generation status report circulated. The graphs show electricity generated compared to electricity consumed (attached to minutes).
 - RH asked about blade feathering and what happens when wind exceeds 90 km/hour. LP explained how each turbine responds individually and automatically shuts down in extreme conditions.
 - NEW ACTION: RH asked about the solar far. DP reported it is performing as predicted – but will be happy to provide graphs of this information at the next meeting.
 5. DT to circulate the CCC Minutes and the GRWF newsletter to her neighbours if they are interested in receiving them. (Dimity Taylor)
 - Complete

Issues raised by community representatives

- RH reported she had found bird remains near her house and previously in her paddock.
- Although this is unlikely to be caused by a wind turbine due to the distance to the nearest turbine, the wind farm said RH could contact them if there were future concerns.
- LP explained the Eagle Breeding Survey was conducted around the wind farm on the 17th and 18th of September and will be carried out again in October. This survey is analysing the number of eagles nesting around the wind farm. The results of the survey will be compiled into a report.
- RH reported their solar panels (from the clean energy program grant) have now been installed on their roof.
- RH asked in BJCE owned a helicopter, because she had heard so many lately. LP confirmed these were nothing to do with the windfarm noting there is a place they could land for emergencies. DP noted the no-fly zone over RH's farm.
- Substation/Switching Yard Lights - RH asked why she always sees big lights on at night. DT agreed they were always on. DP said they might be at the Transgrid switching yard and should

only be on if they are undertaking maintenance. He asked the community representatives to take pictures if the lights were on, noting the date and time, so he could follow it up.

Correspondence

- No correspondence.

Company Reports and Overview of Activities (Leo Pearce)

- Compensatory Habitat Management Plan Area
 - Feral Animal monitoring in the Compensatory Habitat Package Offset Area has now been completed. The results will be analysed and compiled into a report shortly.
 - Revegetation - Greening Australia is doing some native planting to revegetate an area of the Compensatory Habitat Package Offset Area. The 200 trees planted last year in the area are doing well.
 - Weed Control activities in the Compensatory Habitat Package Offset Area have been carried out focusing on Serrated Tussock and Thistles.
- CLEP update: Approx. 97 buildings have completed Stage 1 of the Program, with another 3 applications recently received. 52 Stage 2 applications have been approved so far (including Q2 2018), with 32 installations completed. For the Q3 2018 Funding Round, GRWF has received a total of 2 Stage two applications so far. This Funding Round closes on 22nd September.

Community representatives discussed the review process and the timing involved for approvals. DP explained they needed the extra time to go back to applicants and get the information correct DP said there is now a flowchart about the process which will be placed on the website and the brochure will include it next time it is revised. Include example with the minutes.

- Gullen Range Wind Farm was announced as one of three finalists for the Clean Energy Program (CLEP) in the *Clean Energy Council Business Community Engagement Award* category. The Clean Energy Council Awards recognise excellence in the clean energy sector. Gullen Range Wind Farm did not win the award.
- Community Fund - Seven community organisations will receive funding from the 2018/2019 Community Fund Funding Round (part of the Community Enhancement Program). They will share in \$70,905 to help benefit the community. The organisations include:
 - Bannister District Hall - to upgrade the waste water system
 - Grabben Gullen Hall & Recreational Reserve Trust – to clad the walls
 - Crookwell CWA - to upgrade the roof
 - Viewhaven Lodge – to buy two new oxygen concentrators
 - Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre – to build a fence around the Crookwell Community Gardens
 - Crookwell View Club – to buy a portable PA system
 - Kiama Creek (Pat Cullen Reserve) Landcare – to build a rock wall at the entrance to the Reserve.

- Wind Farm Tours - A tour took place on 17th July, with positive feedback from visitors. The next scheduled tour on 2nd October is fully booked and the tour on 13th November is also nearly full. RH asked for further information about the tours – her concern is the volume of traffic and it's impact on the carbon footprint. LP provided details about the tours and explained they took place about six times a year.
- CEC Open Day - GRWF will be running a special public wind and solar farm tour on Sunday, 21st October as part of the CEC National Wind Farm Open Day. This tour is now fully booked.
- University of NSW stopped by GRWSF with their state-of-the-art solar car. The visit allowed GRWSF and UNSW students to learn about each other's technology. Year 8 students from Crookwell High School were also invited. It was a great opportunity for the Year 8 students to meet the university students and see their solar car.
- Interaction with Schools
 - On 5th September 2018, GRWF successfully hosted Years 3 and 4 students from Crookwell Public School. The students were able to learn how a wind and solar farm works.
 - Regional Development Australia Southern Inland contacted GRWF about their STEM initiative for primary and secondary students. As part of this pilot program, GRWF staff assisted students with their STEM projects on three occasions in August and September.
- BJCE BBQ: On Saturday 28th of July, Biala Wind Farm and Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre hosted an information stand and fundraising BBQ outside the Crookwell IGA. Information provided regarding all the BJCE projects including the Clean Energy Program. The BBQ raised over two hundred dollars and all of the proceeds were donated back to the Neighbourhood Centre.
- BJCE Australia has become a founding signatory of the Clean Energy Council's Best Practice Charter for Renewable Energy Developments. The charter is a voluntary set of commitments that reflects BJCE's commitment to develop projects in a socially responsible way. ACTION: Attach the one-page Charter to the minutes.
- Sponsorship. The Crookwell Devils, sponsored by BJCE since 2015, won the grand final. DP was at the game. Sponsorship funding has also been given to the men's and women's teams at the Crookwell bowling club. DT asked about hockey and the pony club and it was suggested they should contact BJCE if they are interested in sponsorship.
- Community Complaints and Response to Complaints. Two complaints have been received since the last meeting. Only one was shown on the website complaints register as the second was very recent.
 - Complaint 1 - The complainant thought wind farm vehicles were travelling too fast along Storriers Lane, but no accurate details of the vehicle, date or time was provided. The wind farm responded by discussing the incident and the importance of driving safely with all site staff. The complainant was advised to contact us again if they are concerned. They were advised to try and obtain more information, such as any markings on the vehicle and the time of day. This enables the wind farm to identify whether the vehicle is from the wind farm and who the driver is. The wind farm takes road safety very seriously and has disciplinary procedures for offenders.

- Complaint 2 – A wind farm vehicle was requested to reverse on the public road away from some cattle that were crossing the road. The driver felt reversing would be dangerous, as the car was on a blind crest, but the farmer thought this was not reasonable. Leo had since followed up with the farmer and explained the situation. All wind farm operatives have been reminded of the need to be aware of stock on the road.
- Blade fall issue. DP explained he understood the frustration about the previous meeting and provided more details. He provided a turbine model and a cross-section photograph of the head section. He described how a bearing had failed leading to the blade fall and what the preventative actions were. Safework NSW had attended the site when the incident occurred and a copy of their inspection report was provided to the meeting.

PG asked why this had all taken so long and pointed out, from a consumer point of view, there had been a failure of communication. DP explained the investigation had taken a long time to complete and that the sharing of information required the agreement of multiple parties. . PG thanked Derek for providing more detail and asked the community representatives if they were satisfied. RH and CB reported they were satisfied with the explanation..

Action Items

- Attach the one-page Charter to the minutes.
- Attach examples of the flowchart about the review process for the CLEP program
- Provide reports of solar farm performance at the next meeting
- Attach Monthly power generation status report circulated to the minutes

Meeting closed at 7:10pm

NB: A date for the next meeting was not discussed. Potential dates for a February meeting will be circulated to CCC members.