

## Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

### Gullen Range Wind Farm

<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
<b>Location:</b>	Bannister Hall, Bannister NSW 2580
<b>Time:</b>	4pm to 6pm
<b>Attendance:</b>	Peter Gordon (Chair) Charley Barber (Community Member) Dimity Taylor (Community Member) Rosemary Howe (Community Member) Derek Powell (NGRWF) Steph Froggatt (NGRWF) Louise Wakefield (GMC) Councillor Paul Culhane (ULSC)
<b>Apologies:</b>	N/A

#### **Introduction:**

- ) Peter Gordon ('Peter') provided introduction to the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and included information on:
  - Changes to the guidelines for CCC's.
  - The request for information process for projects.
  - Type of information that can be requested from a project.
  - Sharing of information between the parties, including between the wind farm owner and the community.
  
- ) Steph Froggatt ('Steph') and Peter provided clarification on minutes recording process for the CCC meeting.
  - Notes will be taken during the meeting by Steph.
  - The meeting notes will be reviewed by Peter and formed in to minutes.
  - Peter will circulate the draft minutes to the Committee prior to finalisation.

#### **General Discussion:**

- ) Peter asked each Committee member and the NGRWF Representative (Derek Powell) in turn to raise any matters relating to the Gullen Range Wind Farm for discussion.
  
- ) Dimity Taylor ('Dimity') sought clarification on how Peter was appointed in to the role as the Independent Chair for the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC.

- Peter described the process of engagement.
- Peter recommended by the Dept. Planning and Environment to New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd ('NGRWF') who own Gullen Range Wind Farm.
- Peter confirmed he holds similar role on Crookwell Wind Farm project CCC.

) Derek Powell ('Derek') provided history of ownership of the wind farm, including:

- Advice on the initial development of the project, from Epuron to Gold Wind Capital (who owned the project through the build phase).
- Derek advised on the current ownership and confirmed that NGRWF holds operational ownership for the project and has done since 2014.
- Derek is the current Asset Manager for the Gullen Range Wind Farm project and works for NGRWF.
- NGRWF is 25% owned by Goldwind (Capital) Australia Pty Ltd and 75% by Beijing and Jingneng Clean Energy (Hong Kong) Pty Ltd (BJCE). BJCE is the controlling stakeholder and has managed the wind farm asset since November 2015.

) On request by the Committee Derek provided background on the Gullen Range Solar Farm project, including:

- Derek is Asset Manager for Gullen Range Solar Farm.
- A Community Information Session for the Gullen Range Solar Farm is proposed for next week.
- Road works have commenced from Range Road to Storriers Lane ahead of the commencement of construction of the Solar Farm. These works are being undertaken by Divalls.

) Charley Barber ('Charley') asked Derek a question regarding ownership structure of solar farm.

- Derek confirmed that both the wind farm and solar farm are ultimately owned by New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd.

) Derek confirmed the NGRWF commitment to ongoing community engagement.

- Derek provided advice on the Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Fund, including the funding that has already been provided by the Gullen Range Wind Farm to fund local projects.
- Derek provided advice on sponsorship by Gullen Range Wind Farm, including sponsorship of the Crookwell Devils Club and local events (e.g. potato festival).
- Derek confirmed that NGRWF would welcome suggestions from the Committee members on potential future sponsorship opportunities.
- Derek confirmed that there has been a recent upgrade to Gullen Range Wind Farm website to make the site more user friendly.

ACTION: NGRWF to ensure there is a direct link to the Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC) from the Gullen Range Wind Farm website front page. As per request from Peter, NGRWF is to ensure that Peter's email address is included on the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC page on the website.

) Charley raised noise as a concern from the wind farm. Charley cited his personal experience with turbines POM1 to POM07 which he confirmed 'can be quite loud'. Charley also advised

that he also understands the Kialla turbines at the northern end of the project can be quite loud.

- Derek provided background on the Gullen Range Wind Farm project approval and the noise monitoring undertaken to date, which has been reviewed by the EPA and NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
- Derek confirmed that operational phase noise monitoring required by the project approval has demonstrated that Gullen Range Wind Farm is in compliance.
- Derek offered to make a noise expert available to speak to the committee.

) Derek confirmed that the Gullen Range Wind Farm Complaints Register (required by the Project Approval) is available on the website.

- Peter confirmed that the Complaints Register, and the NGRWF responses to those complaints, need to be reported on at each meeting.

) Rosemary Howe ('Rosemary') confirmed that she was aware that there are a number of people interested in joining the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC but advised that they felt 'burnt out' and 'disillusioned' by the processes around the wind farm. As a consequence, these interested people did not make an application to be on the Committee.

- Peter confirmed that he is happy for non-members to come and observe future CCC meetings as non-committee members. Peter requested advice in advance if further anyone additional to the Committee wishes to attend.
- Peter offered this as an opportunity to let non-committee members view the CCC process for the Gullen Range Wind Farm.

) Rosemary acknowledged the role of Committee members as representatives of the community.

- Rosemary highlighted that there appears to be a focus on the impact on people within 2km of the wind farm but confirmed that the effects extend beyond the 2km extent.
- Rosemary raised issues she attributed to the Gullen Range Wind Farm, including impact on roads and property valuations.
- Rosemary asked question to Peter about how best for them to communicate and gain advice from people 'affected' by the wind farm. Specifically, what mechanisms will be established to ensure that non-committee members are represented effectively in the CCC process?
- Peter responded to Rosemary's question by confirming the key communication device will be the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meeting minutes. Peter confirmed that over time we will improve the minuting process to best communicate the things that we discuss.
- The minutes will be a 'proper communication device' that can be circulated to non-committee members after the meetings to ensure that they are informed.
- Peter confirmed how we write the minutes and how we share them will be important.

SUGGESTION: Dimity suggested that the Bannister Hall Association email list be utilised as one way to circulate the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meeting minutes to the local community. Rosemary confirmed she was not on the list but she also had an email circulation list. Peter suggested that there would be potential value in merging these two lists to ensure circulation to the meeting minutes to a wider audience in the local community.

- ) Louise Wakefield ('Louise') confirmed support for the CCC process.
- Louise confirmed the feedback from the Goulburn Mulwaree Council relating to the Gullen Range Wind Farm focussed on the impact from construction phase. Louise confirmed the feedback was not entirely positive and cited interaction with Gold Wind during this period.
  - Louise acknowledged that the construction phase was in the past and confirmed she was looking forward to positive process going forward.
  - Derek asked Louise a question about how to distribute minutes to the Gurrundah area which falls within the boundary of Goulburn Mulwaree Council. Louise confirmed that the information will be captured within the 'Out Reach' projects in relevant Goulburn Mulwaree Council areas. The minutes will also be tabled at Goulburn Mulwaree Council meetings going forward and will form part of the formal record for these Council meetings.
- ) Councillor Paul Culhane ('Paul') confirmed his belief that the Community Consultative Committee process provides a valuable way to communicating information between parties.
- Paul confirmed his understanding that other areas outside of the area immediately around the Gullen Range Wind Farm will be interested in the outcomes of the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meetings.
  - Paul confirmed that the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meeting minutes will be tabled at the Upper Lachlan Shire Council Meetings and will form part of the formal record for these Council meetings.
- ) General discussion by the Committee regarding community interest in being part of the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC. Discussion on the inclusion of non-committee observers in future meetings – general agreement that the inclusion of observers is a positive initiative for the CCC going forward.
- ) Peter confirmed that he would support non-committee members contributing at future meetings but that the process would be for these members to speak through the Chair. Non-committee members would not have the same status as committee members.
- ) Peter proposed to Derek that a technical presentation be provided to the Committee at the next Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meeting.

ACTION: Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee members are requested to provide Peter with specific requests on any technical information that members may wish to hear about from NGRWF. This information needs to be requested in advance of the next meeting with enough time for NGRWF to collate the requested information.

- ) Peter made an offer to in future provide the Committee with access to the Gullen Range Wind Farm and to 'see the technology up close'. There was general agreement from the Committee that this would be a valuable.
- ) Dimity asked Peter whether the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC can be utilised to raise concerns regarding the Gullen Range Solar Farm development. General discussion on this suggestion within the Committee. It was noted that a CCC is not formally required (under the Project Approval) for a CCC to be formed for the Gullen Range Solar Farm.

- )] General discussion on the 'shared concerns' relevant to both projects, e.g. the impact on the local roads that may be caused by the two projects collectively.
- )] Derek confirmed that he would be happy to respond to any questions regarding the Gullen Range Solar Farm at future meetings but recommended that the function of the CCC not be specific to both projects, identifying that the defined purpose of the CCC was for the wind farm and that it covered a much larger geographic area than was relevant to the solar farm.
- )] The Committee supported the suggestion by Derek. Concerns regarding the Solar Farm to are to be raised as and when required but the Solar Farm is not to be the focus of the CCC.
- )] Peter discussed potential attendance by a Department of Planning and Environment representative in future. The representative would be able to provide further detail on the Department of Planning and Environmental processes around Community Consultative Committee's, including on the CCC guidelines. A representative recently attended the Crookwell Wind Farm CCC meeting.
- )] Dimity requested further advice from Peter on what the 'alternate member' status was and cited this status in the context of John Klem who was confirmed by the Department of Planning and Environment as a 'alternate' member for the Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC. Peter responded by confirming he would seek further guidance from the Department on how this status was assigned to John. Dimity acknowledge the offer and confirmed she would appreciate specific advice on the role of an alternate member and how this differed to the general members of the Committee.

ACTION: Peter to provide further advice on the 'alternate member' status as requested by Dimity.

- )] Dimity requested advice on the community engagement process from Derek, including a suggestion around a drop in office. Derek responded by suggesting that NGRWF, if supported by the community, could look at such opportunities.
- )] Derek confirmed that the Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Engagement Plan is out of date (relating primarily to construction phase) and welcomed feedback from the Committee on how to update and improve the Plan for the operational phase of the Wind Farm.

ACTION: Derek to provide Peter with the Community Consultation Plan to circulate to the Committee.

ACTION: Committee to provide feedback (via Peter) to Derek on the content on of the Plan and provide feedback / advice on how to improve the Plan to ensure it is effective going forward.

**Items for Next Meeting:**

- )] Dimity raised discussion point on how to improve community engagement and get more people interested in engagement events and processes. Rosemary and Charley both confirmed that it is difficult with some people as they have had only negative experiences with the Gullen Range Wind Farm and are not likely to be interested in being engaged further.

- ) Peter asked if there were any agenda items that Charley or Rosemary wanted to raise at the next meeting.
- Rosemary confirmed that she would like to 'present a paper' to the Committee at the next meeting capturing feedback from her own experience and information from other people from the community.
  - Charley and Rosemary both indicated they would like to discuss 'compensation and amelioration' at the next meeting for those most affected, with a focus on those within 2km.
- ) Charley asked question to Derek regarding turbines at the Wind Farm being turned off and what information can be provided from a technical point of view by NGRWF at future Committee meetings. Derek confirmed that some information can be provided but information on the maintenance regime is subject to Gold Wind Australia (and not the owner NGRWF) who have been engaged to undertake operations and maintenance on the Gullen Range Wind Farm.
- ) Peter suggested the next Gullen Range Wind Farm CCC meeting be held at the Wind Farm itself. Charley suggested that a short tour with an offsite meeting (e.g. at the Bannister Hall) would be more appropriate.

ACTION: Peter to liaise with NGRWF (Derek) to host the Committee members at the Gullen Range Wind Farm for a site visit before the next meeting.

ACTION: Derek to collate list of reportable conditions from the Gullen Range Wind Farm project approval and to provide a presentation to the Committee on relevant items to the Committee at subsequent meetings.

ACTION: Standing item for subsequent meetings for Complaints Register information to be presented by NGRWF.

**Timing for Next Meeting:**

- ) Discussion by the Committee on timing for subsequent meetings. Peter confirmed 4-5 meetings are standard per year.
- ) Dimity suggested next meeting in a month and subsequent meeting circa three months after that point (circa February), identifying the Christmas period in between. General discussion on the timing for the next meeting and subsequent agreement by the Committee for next meeting pre-Christmas.
- ) Request by CB to make the meeting slightly later. Agreement by all to schedule meetings from 4.30pm going forward.

ACTION: PG to schedule the meeting from 4.30pm going forward to allow all Committee members to safely arrive in time for the meeting.

ACTION: Peter to schedule next meeting for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016. Committee members are to be at the Gullen Range Wind Farm main gate at 4.20pm with the meeting to start from 4.30pm.

**Next Meeting: 4.30pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.**