

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Gullen Range Wind Farm

Date:	2 nd March 2017
Location:	Grabben Gullen Hall Camp Street Grabben Gullen NSW 2583
Time:	4.30pm to 6.30pm
Attendance:	Peter Gordon (Chair) Dimity Taylor (Community Member) Charley Barber (Community Member) Rosemary Howe (Community Member) Louise Wakefield (GMC) Councillor Paul Culhane (ULSC) Derek Powell (NGRWF) Steph Froggatt (NGRWF)
Apologies:	Nil

Introduction by Chair (Peter Gordon):

- No changes to declared pecuniary or other interests confirmed by Committee members.
- Previous minutes of 23rd November 2016 confirmed by Committee.
- No business arising from previous minutes.
- No correspondence received since previous meeting.

Project Update (Derek Powell and Steph Froggatt):

General:

- Average of 79,000 homes powered per day (based on 18kwh / day per residence) for 2016. On very good days greater than 200,000 houses per day powered by project.
- Year end 2016 coincided with 2nd operational anniversary of the wind farm (23rd December).

Bird and Bat Monitoring:

- Interim report for 2016 bird and bat monitoring on wind farm was produced by an external consultant in late 2016. Hard copy made available for Committee to view during meeting. As outlined in the report, a total of 18 bird carcasses and 21 bat carcasses were recorded in 2016.
- Final version of monitoring report to included January and February 2017 monitoring. Final report due March 2017 and will be made publicly available on wind farm website www.gullenrangewindfarm.com

- Total of 26 months of monitoring has been completed on wind farm.

Conservation Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) / Offset Site:

- Confirmation that a PVP was approved in December 2016 for the offset site for the wind farm.
- Offset required as part of project approval on basis of 2:1 ratio. Greater than 2:1 ratio achieved and now protected under the PVP 'in perpetuity'. Total of 122.93ha within offset site boundary.
- Baseline surveys for the PVP offset site have been completed. Weed control, nesting box and tree planting activities due to commence in Q2.

AEMR and Independent Environmental Audit:

- Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR) for 2016 recently completed. One minor non-compliance – although inspections had occurred on vegetation through the overhead transmission line easement (between Gurrundah and Pomeroy), there was no documentation formalising the inspections. A documented inspection was subsequently undertaken (January).
- Independent Audit undertaken 17-18th January 2017. No non-compliances identified by auditor. Company currently developing written response to auditor's recommendations.
- Both reports will be made publicly available on the wind farm website (expected March).

Community Enhancement Program:

- Approximately \$70,000 required to be contributed to the Community Enhancement Program on annual basis for life of wind farm. Includes 'Community Fund' and Clean Energy Program'.
- Clean Energy Program being rolled out with first solar panels fitted. 11 applications have progressed so far (approx. \$67,000 value) with a further 9 scheduled to progress (approx. \$56,000 value).
- Clean Energy Program applications managed by wind farm with oversight from independent adjudicator. Open to uninvolved residences within 5km of the wind farm.
- Community Fund administered by Upper Lachlan Shire Council. Next round of applications closed in January. Committee due to meet in March 2017 to assess current applications.

Post Meeting Note: ULSC confirmed subsequent to the CCC meeting that the Community Fund applications have not yet been opened for 2017 but will be open for applications soon.

Community Engagement and Sponsorships:

- Bus tours being considered as alternate to the annual open day. Tours being developed in conjunction with 'South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence' (SERREE).
- The wind farm sponsored the recent Crookwell Show.

Complaints Register:

- One noise complaint received from Grabben Gullen since previous meeting. Complaint recorded on complaints register publicly available on wind farm website.
- General discussion on the process of investigating noise complaints and outcome of the investigation undertaken in to the cited complaint.

Other Business:

- Discussion on process for minutes sign off and distribution.
 - Agreement minutes will be circulated with defined period for comments by Committee.
 - Minutes to be updated (where required) to reflect comments.
 - Minutes circulated in final form.
 - Aim for minutes to be finalised and distributed within one month of the meeting.
- Dimity Taylor again requested advice on the member status of John Klem.
 - Chair confirmed a response to be provided by Department of Planning and Environment.
 - Request by Dimity to have information provided to Mr Klem by the next meeting.
- Discussion on success of landscape planting for the project. Complaints regarding plantings should be made to the wind farm. Complaints contact information on wind farm website.
- Request by Rosemary Howe and Charley Barber to move future CCC meetings back to 5.30pm.

Items for Next Meeting:

- Community Information Plan.
 - Community engagement table circulated by Derek Powell for Committee member feedback at the next meeting. The draft table describes ideas for how the wind farm could interact with the community, to improve communication. Although it may not be possible to implement all ideas, the table should be a good starting point for discussion at the next meeting.

Timing for Next Meetings:

- Agreement by Committee to move meetings to 5.30pm start time.
- Agreement by Committee to move meetings to Wednesday nights.
- Next meeting confirmed for Wednesday 3rd May 2017 starting 5.30pm.
- Meeting for June confirmed for Wednesday 28th June 2017 starting at 5.30pm.
- Locations for May and June meetings to be confirmed by wind farm (NGRWF).

Next Meeting: 5.30pm Wednesday 3rd May 2017