

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

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
<b>Location:</b>	CWA Meeting Rooms, Crookwell
<b>Time:</b>	4pm – 5:15pm
<b>Attendance:</b>	Peter Gordon (PG) – Chair Dimity Taylor (DT) – Community Representative Councillor Paul Culhane (PC) – Upper Lachlan Shire Council Scott Martin (SM) – Goulburn Mulwaree Council Karl Shubert (KS) – BJCE, Head of Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations Lachlan Lamberton (LL) – BJCE, Asset Manager Diana Forrester (DF) BJCE, Community Liaison Officer
<b>Apologies:</b>	Leo Pearce – BJCE, Asset Manager

<b>Introductions and Welcome</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PG welcomed everyone to the CCC meeting.</li> <li>Given the changes in personnel from BJCE, PG invited each person to introduce themselves. This provided an opportunity for the CCC members to provide some history and context for the new members of the group.</li> <li>DT mentioned the Humelink is now of much greater concern to the local community than GRWF.</li> <li>PG expressed his view regarding the lifecycle of the CCCs, questioning the need for meetings more than once a year once projects have settled into their operational stage. He will raise this in his feedback to the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner. PG is also going to attend a meeting of NSW CCC Chairs in October. This will be a National Review of how renewable CCCs could be improved into the future. He is keen to suggest alternatives ways for these long-term projects to contribute to their host communities – potentially through some monies being placed into shared funds with other renewable projects for use on more substantial community projects.</li> <li>SM provided an example of how the new Marulan Solar Farm has agreed, in consultation with that community, to establish a centrally administered fund to address the significant housing issues in Wingecaribee shire. Gundaroo and Marino solar farms will also pay into the new fund. The VPAs have been re-worked to enable this change to occur.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conflicting and Pecuniary Interests</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: None</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minutes for the last meeting in November 2022 were agreed out of session and are on the website</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Items from Previous Minutes</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	
<b>Items Raised by Community Representatives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	
<b>Correspondence</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was no correspondence tabled</li> </ul>	

## Company Reports and Overview of Activities

- LL advised several new people have joined BJCE as the company is expanding. New hires include:
  - Karl Schubert, Head of Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations
  - Lachlan Lamberton & Gustavo Siqueira as Asset Managers for Gullen Range Wind Farm
  - Karim Ali, HSEQ Manager
- An offer is out for a new site manager for GRWF with an expected start date in November.

### **Operational update**

- LL reported the turbines at GRWF and Biala Wind Farm (BWF) were switched off during the annual scheduled high voltage maintenance.
- Routine maintenance continued on turbines and roads.

### **Environmental update**

- LL explained that GRWF conducts an audit of the wind farm's performance every year against the Planning Approval and submits a report to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) for compliance. He confirmed the operation is currently compliant for all its obligations.
- The Offset Area is progressing as normal with routine annual activities.
- Weed spraying in the offset area is currently underway.
- Pest animal cameras have been installed in the forest, if pests are identified a pest control plan will be put in place.

### **Bushfire updates**

- Bushfire Management Plan has been updated for the 2023/24 summer.
- The Rural Fire Service (RFS) was invited to come out recently, to re-familiarize themselves with Gullen Range Wind Farm and the GRWF Bushfire Management Plan. Given the likelihood of a hot dry summer ahead BJCE decided it wise to seek additional feedback from them. They were satisfied everything required is now in place.
- DT asked which RFS was involved in this visit and LL said he would revert with an answer due to the visit occurring prior to his start with the company. **ACTION**
- GRWF continue to monitor for fuel loads and landowners are consulted if there is further need to minimise risk.

### **Road and site updates**

- No onsite issues.

### **Energy generation**

- Following a previous request from the CCC for energy comparison graphs, LL provided examples which were circulated to the members and explained.
- PG asked how much of the energy generated didn't get used.
- LL did not have exact figures with him but explained all wind farms get curtailed at different times.
- KS explained how the energy bidding works and what measures are taken should GRWF not be selected as a bidder during a particular time slot and energy is not taken from the farm. He also noted that bidding in the energy market is done via a computer programme that is overseen by humans..

### **Clean Energy Program Update**

- Approximately 128 buildings have completed Stage 1 of the program, which involves

receiving an energy efficiency audit and voucher. 87 Stage 2 applications have been approved so far. 86 installations have been completed to date. For the Q3 2023 Funding Round, GRWF has received 0 Stage 2 applications. The next Funding Round (Q4 2023) closes on 22 December 2023.

- The Year 8 Annual report and audit report have been completed and are available on the website. At the end of Year 8, the Clean Energy Program fund was in deficit by \$91,381 on an accrual basis, indicating that NGRWF (as the owner and proponent of Gullen Range Wind Farm) has voluntarily committed \$91,381 more to the program than is required under the wind farm Development Approval.

**Community Information Plan annual review**

- KS provided a summary overview of the community engagement activities over the last 12-months.
- Site tours recommenced in 2023, with a public tour in April and a school tour in May.
- KS explained his wish to support the development of STEM programs with local schools in the region, and urged both Councils to consider how they could become more involved. He emphasised BJCE’s interest in supporting such initiatives explaining he is keen to see BJCE use its experience to help upskill the next generation of the clean energy workforce.

**General Business**

**Community Enhancement Fund**

- DT mentioned how successful the Gullen Range Wind Farm Grant Writing Workshops had helped to upskill the community and support their applications to the various community funds available. She wondered whether the wind farm would run workshops to help these organisations improve their corporate governance and planning.
- DF explained Biala Wind Farm’s recent efforts to host and facilitate a Think Tank for the Grabben Gullen community on what might improve the town’s liveability. It was hoped this might help identify projects that could become the subject of community fund grant applications.
- DT was supportive of renewed efforts in this regard.

**Complaints**

- No complaints recorded since 2021.

**Close and Next Meeting**

- Meeting closed: 5.20pm
- Next meeting: 30 April 2024 at 4pm at Bannister Hall

**ACTION ITEMS:**

LL to advise DT which RFS visited GRWF earlier in the year to re-familiarize themselves with Gullen Range Wind Farm and the Bushfire Management Plan.