

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

Date:	Wednesday 15 October 2025
Location:	Bannister Hall
Time:	4pm – 5:30pm
Attendance:	Peter Gordon (PG) – Chair Dimity Taylor (DT) – Community Representative Councillor Susan Reynolds (SR) – Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC) Councillor Liz McKeon (LM) – Goulburn Mulwaree Council Erin Fletcher (EF) – Gullen Range Wind Farm Andrew Sinclair (AS) – Gullen Range Wind Farm Diana Forrester (DF) – Minutes

Introductions and Welcome	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG welcomed everyone to the CCC meeting. 	
Conflicting and Pecuniary Interests	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: No changes declared. However, this prompted a discussion regarding the potential need to refresh the original list of CCC Members' community interests. The following was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EF is the GRWF representative for the Community Fund Committee ○ LM is the Goulburn Mulwaree Council representative on the GRWF Community Fund Committee ○ DT is on the Bannister Hall Committee, has an easement that belongs to GRWF and sits on the ARI Alliance Board 	
Minutes of Previous Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes for the last meeting in April 2025 were agreed out of session and are on the website. 	
Action Items from Previous Minutes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no outstanding action items. 	
Correspondence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no correspondence. 	
Items Raised by Community Representatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG asked if there was anything not on the agenda which needed to be considered in the meeting. • DT and SR were interested in hearing more about progress on the BESS proposal 	

Company Reports and Overview of Activities

Operational Update

Energy Generation

- AS reported the wind farm produced 96.97 GWh in Q2, which equated to 57,505 homes powered for the quarter, which is an increase on Q1 when 93 GWh was produced, which powered approximately 55,103 homes
- PG asked if the recent strong wind had an impact on operations
- AS explained wind only means a shut down if they are instructed to do so. The recent wind gusts had produced a couple of minor issues – but these were quickly overcome
- DT asked about turbine stoppages.
- AS explained the turbine stoppages can occur when the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) shut down operations when too much power is going into the grid. Stoppages can also be related to maintenance happening at a turbine or substation.
- DT asked how long the wind drought, mentioned at a previous meeting, had continued.
- EF said it was over a 12-month period but it's now turning the corner.
- AS reported that 3 generators have been delivered to site so far with 2 more expected to be going to the Gurrundah side of the farm soon. 3-4 generators at the top of the towers have to be replaced, while the others will be spare and stored at site
- AS also reported that some spare blades will be delivered in early November for storage at site.
- AS noted, that cranes would be required to do the generator installations, which is due to take place early next year. He said a couple would be installed at the Pomeroy section and 2 at Gurrundah
- SR asked about the blades and why they were being brought to site
- AS explained the blades had been stored at Newcastle port previously however it was decided to deliver them to site for storage and to have them at hand should they be required.
- DT asked about the travel plan for the blades, which had previously travelled past the Crookwell Showground
- AS said they would now be coming straight down the Crookwell main street to the Grabben Gullen Road, onto Range Road and then Bannister Lane before reaching Storriers Lane. He said the blades would leave Newcastle at night, get to Goulburn early in the morning and go on to site before the school traffic. *Post meeting note: Since the CCC meeting the traffic plan has reverted back to take the previous route past Crookwell Showground*
- SR asked how long the blades are
- AS said they're 40 meters long
- EF said once we know more and have the delivery timetable we will notify people with easements along the route about the planned delivery, as well as look at updating the GRWF website for the community more broadly
- SR asked how often the blades are inspected. She explained she is a pilot and understands what happens to propellers, when insects, hail, dust etc can all create damage
- AS said the blades are inspected every year, using drones. If any damage is seen a closer investigation will take place to confirm if any repairs are required.

Environmental Report

- Goulburn Agg Spraying had been on site recently to spray blackberry and serrated tussock.
- AS said some of the local RFS brigades did a site visit on 26 September, to GRWF, Gullen

Solar Farm and Biala Wind Farm. This was a general familiarisation, so they know where to get into the site, can see the road layout and learn where water sources are located.

- PG asked about the aviation lights. EF and AS explained the lights raised at the previous CCC meeting were discovered to be left on at the Transgrid substation and subsequently turned off. GRWF does not have aviation lighting on the turbines, however Biala Wind Farm turbines do but have been switched off since 2021 after consultation with the relevant authorities.
- AS said, when the blade work is underway, there could be some crane lights on at night for a period of about a week.
- Feral animal management has been a focus, with 77 feral pigs removed over winter. This was the result of ongoing trapping, poisoning etc (3 traps were used for this purpose). There are cameras on the traps so they can be dealt with quickly. This activity will continue, although AS said the pigs are less active in summer
- NARLA Environmental has cameras set up to check species and weed monitoring
- SR asked which species are being monitored as she is particularly interested in bird migration. She is concerned there are less in the Crookwell area these days.
- AS said he was not 100% sure about birds but mentioned the bird boxes used to encourage habitat for them.
- SR asked if GRWF could monitor the species of birds over the life of the project. She explained she had spoken to the Commissioner about this being a good way to factually record longer term changes. She believes species move through a 4 year cycle – not annual – and it depends on bushfires, wet and dry years etc... She is talking to the birdwatching groups to see if Council can share information – possibly feeding information into a central database to develop a picture over time. She explained while Bird Watch Australia has some data – it's not specific to Upper Lachlan Shire
- SR believes windshear might be killing more birds than blade strike
- AS thinks the birds learn because the number of strikes has decreased over time. DT believes that is possible, and she referenced an experiment on epigenetic change
- AS mentioned several of the turbines would be switched off one hour before dusk until one hour after dawn – from 1 Nov to the end of February – to protect powerful owls that had been identified in the area
- AS reported Goldwind has also been carrying out weed control at the hard stands and along the roads
- AS also noted that SMEG Environmentalists have been on site, looking at erosion to ensure there had not been any significant changes on site (from heavy rain etc)
- EF explained the annual environmental reporting is uploaded to the website

Community update

Media interest

- EF said GRWF had been approached by a kids TV show looking to film at site to feature in an upcoming episode on electricity production. Efforts are underway to get them to the wind and solar farms later this month to do that filming. EF explains they are keen to tap into this educational initiative, and is hopeful it can ultimately be shared with young children locally and with the general public via the website.

Clean Energy Program Update (CLEP)

- EF reported 100 applications for Stage 2 projects and 98 installations completed to date
- She confirmed there are approximately 200 eligible homes within the 5km radius of the wind farm.
- The program is now open for multiple applications, with the latest round closing on 22

September 2025

- EF advised that the trend for first time applicants tracks towards solar panels, while returning applicants are leaning towards batteries, solar hot water systems and double glazing
- EF explained the grant subsidy this year is \$8370.
- EF reported the annual audit for the CLEP program has been completed for Year 10 of the program (2024) and it will be on the website soon. There was a residual amount of unspent funds from the CLEP from last year that will be transferred to the Community Fund.

Community Fund

- EF reported the Gullen Range Wind Farm Community Fund received 14 applications this year. All of the available funding (approx. \$118K) was awarded, shared by 10 grant recipients as follows:

Applicant	Project	Amount
Grabben Gullen Hall & Recreation Reserve Land Manager	Grabben Gullen Hall Façade Upgrade	\$41,701.31
Crookwell Heritage Railway	Upper Lachlan Arts, Culture and Heritage Trail	\$7,100
St Mary’s Primary School P&F Working Committee	BBQ Trailer	\$12,000
Quick Shear Incorporated	Shearer’s Showdown	\$10,000
Breadalbane Public School P&C	Permanent BBQ Area for Community and Children of BPS and the Wider Community	\$8,000
St Mary’s Primary School P&F Working Committee	Basketball/Netball/Tennis Court Fence	\$15,000
Rotary Club of Crookwell	Crookwell Rotary – Serving our Community (purchase of new assets to support fundraising activities)	\$5,224.62
Bannister District Hall Association Inc	A Hall for All – Roof Restoration	\$11,636.65
Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Web Page	\$2,200
Australian Agricultural Centre	International Women’s Day: Women in Agriculture	\$6,000

- EF advised the Fund would re-open around April next year.

School Activities

- EF reported that Crookwell High (Year 8) visited GRW&SF in early May and thoroughly enjoyed the experience
- EF said she hoped they would be able to have a local Primary School visit next month and she is working with the local STEM coordinator to arrange
- AS and EF went to the Crookwell High School Careers Day on Friday 12 September. EF reported that lots of the smaller local primary schools went to this, which was great. GRWF had wind turbine kits for them to play with, which proved a popular activity.
- EF noted that Biala Wind Farm had sponsored the Southern Tablelands STEM challenge in September
- SR asked if this involvement would continue and EF confirmed this would happen, explaining the company is keen to have as much school involvement as possible

Public Tours

- EF reported that three (3) public tours had occurred in 2025, with 2 happening since the last CCC meeting.
- EF said they could easily fill more public tours a year, but the logistics are difficult and having the right weather is also a consideration when planning these events
- EF reported that the August tour was, unusually, mostly comprised of local residents from Goulburn and Crookwell
- More tours will be scheduled for early next year.
- DT asked whether dedicated tours could be arranged for potential owners and neighbours of proposed windfarms.
- AS said that had happened already, with Goldwind bringing a group for another project they are working on. He said it was a good way for potential hosts to get a feel of what a wind farm is actually like.
- EF re-iterated that the company does try to do as many as possible – but it's hard to resource
- SR spoke very positively about how well BJEI is managing this from a communication and PR perspective, but she pointed out that all sites are very different and sharing lived experience may not be the same as at another site with different owners

Newsletters

- EF reported that Newsletters had been issued in May and September with another due to go out at the end of the year.

Complaints

- EF reported there had been no complaints received this year.

Gullen BESS

- EF explained the GRWF owner is now looking at the company wide strategy for batteries overall, so there was not a lot of progress other than the community meeting held earlier in the year.
- SR asked if the proposed BESS would be Lithium. EF said that it had not yet been finalised however believed it was Lithium. *Post meeting note: Currently investigations for the project are being undertaken with LFP (Lithium iron phosphate) technology*
- SR thought a large dam would be necessary to protect against fire.
- EF explained that detailed studies and modelling would be done as the project progresses, including hazard analysis and fire management
- SR talked about power outages in the region and said Central Energy only has one connection between Goulburn and Crookwell. Apparently, they are thinking about a diesel generator to fix that issue – which is not popular with the public who would prefer a green solution
- EF reported feedback at the BESS community meeting was that they would like a community battery instead of a generator

General Business

- EF asked if there were any changes needed for the CCC Terms of Reference document, including frequency of CCC meetings for next year
- PG explained that two meetings a year was considered the minimum
- The Committee broadly agreed that no changes were needed to the current Terms of Reference
- DT requested a copy of the final version of the Minutes be sent to her so she can distribute these to her network. **ACTION ITEM**

- LM commented that she thinks the CCC meetings are doing an excellent job

Close and Next Meeting

- Meeting closed: 5.20 pm
- Next meeting: **4pm on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, at Bannister Hall.**