



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting held at The Club House Hotel, Yass on Monday 15th November 2021

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Malcolm Moore (MM)	CWP Renewables (Site Supervisor)
Lyn Diskon (LD)	CWP Renewables (Community Engagement Officer)
Cr Geoff Frost (GF)	Yass Valley Council delegate CWP Renewables
Thomas McGrath (TM)	Community Representative (Host Landholder)
Terry Sellwood (TS)	Community Representative
Michael McNally (MMc)	CWP Renewables (Maintenance Manager)

Apologies:

Laurie Hutchison	Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation
Jayne Apps	Boorowa District Landscape Guardians
Brooke Watson	Yass Valley Business Chamber delegate
Jonathan Post	CWP Renewables (Project Manager)
Cr John Walker	Hilltops Council delegate.

Absent:

Andrew Winterflood	Community Representative
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Meeting commenced at 11.07am.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Bango Wind Farm (BWF) Community Consultative Committee and acknowledged that members were meeting in accordance with the COVID health orders.

Apologies

As listed above.

Declaration of Interest

The Chair declared her interest as Independent Chairperson of the BWF CCC, approved by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, and engaged by CWP Renewables to chair the meeting.

No changes to previous declarations by members.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Minutes of CCC held via video-conferencing on 16th August 2021, were finalised and emailed to members on 15th September 2021.

Action Items from Previous Meeting

Item	Issue	Responsibility
1	JW to provide email address for Hilltops Council. (Complete – provided 16/8/21).	JW/LA
2	Confirm venue for next CCC 15/11/21 in Yass. Complete – meeting notice sent out on 4/11/21 confirming the venue.	LA

No other business arising.

Correspondence Report

Correspondence as sent out with the meeting notice on 4th November 2021 with 2 additional items.

- 16/8/21 – Email from Cr Walker with the Hilltops Council email address for distribution of the minutes.
- 7/9/21– Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 10/9/21 – Email from Hilltops Council requesting February 2021 finalised minutes for reporting to Council. Responded the same day, attaching minutes.
- 18/8/21 – Text from JA regarding a COVID positive case at the project site. This was forwarded to CWP for response.
- 15/9/21 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 21/9/21 – Email from CWP with information on the COVID situation on site. This information was forwarded through to members for their information.
- 21/9/21 – Letter to Terry Sellwood with a copy of the email.
- 21/9/21 – Email from TM asking that this matter be discussed at the next CCC. Acknowledged by LA.
- 4/11/21 – Email to members with meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report for this meeting.
- 12/11/21 – Email from TM regarding aviation lighting on turbines.
- 13/11/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting. Text to TS.

Accepted.

LA wished to speak to the matter raised by TM in his correspondence of 12/11/21 advising that, on behalf of the Host landholders, he made contact with the local state member for Goulburn, Mrs Wendy Tuckerman MP in relation to the aviation lights installed on the turbines at Bango Wind Farm. Mrs Tuckerman referred the matter to the Minister for Planning, Mr Rob Stokes.

TM tabled the response from Minister Stokes and provided the chair with a copy of the correspondence post meeting.

LA advised that a lot of work has been done on this matter, showing members the paperwork that she had accrued as a result of her dealings with CASA, DPIE & the Wind Farm Commissioner (Feb 2018 to Aug 2019) in relation to the lights installed on the towers at the Sapphire Wind Farm near Inverell. LA advised that she would be happy to share this correspondence with TM if this would assist.

Background: The community of Inverell were not aware of the aviation light condition and it wasn't until they were turned on did they become aware, which caused a number of complaints to be received. Noting that in rural areas lighting in a usually dark landscape stands out dramatically. Residents were upset and if they had known about this requirement from CASA they would have

objected during the assessment process for the wind farm. LA wrote to DPIE & CASA and the proponent also made representations to DPIE to try and have the condition removed or changed to appease the community. There was also a high level meeting with the Wind Farm Commissioner, DPIE, Victoria's Planning Department, CASA & Clean Energy Council delegates. There were discussions about aviation maps (being updated with the turbines), the height of the turbines (200m for this development) being below flying levels, potential for radar lighting, where the lights came on only when planes were in the vicinity, reduced candela or brightness of the lights, the reduced number of lights (as they are not located on every turbine). Basically it was a standoff – CASA wanted them on and as a referring authority and part of the DA assessment process (like OEH, EPA, Water NSW, etc), the Department took CASA's recommendation and placed it as a condition of consent.

As a result, there was a trial of reduced candela (2000 down to 200) and LA understood that this was a successful outcome still meeting CASA's requirements and whilst the community weren't completely happy, it was a better outcome.

MMc advised that CWP have recently been discussing this matter with CASA & DPIE to try and mitigate a satisfactory resolution. Noting that CASA had significantly reduced the candelas from 2000 to 200, which was the basis of the project condition.

These discussions had included the brightness of the lights, cloud coverage impacts, potential to install radar lighting (cost prohibitive), the effect that birds and weather conditions could have on radar lighting, the proximity of the project to Canberra Airport, etc.

Action Item: MMc to keep the CCC informed of any further developments with CASA on this matter, should they arise.

Project Update – CWP Renewables

MM provided attendees with the project update. See presentation.

Site Map Progress (Slide 1)

973 Feeder

- 21 towers in the western cluster have been installed.
- 13 are generating
- 4 partly commissioned
- GE will be 12 in reliability runs.
- Blades are being fitted on the running units. 14 of the 21 are available for generation.
- 9 towers in the eastern cluster.

999 Feeder

- 16 towers
- 11 towers have been installed; some at the nacelle stage with none generating, partly commissioned or reliability runs. Planning on energisation of underground system this week. These can then progress to be brought online.

Tracks are fundamentally complete. All components are on site and available – just waiting on a decent run with the weather. It is aimed to have the towers erected by the end of the year but this may be optimistic. COVID has impacted the project a bit following positive cases on site. The Department of Health classified the site as being a "casual contact", accordingly all workers had to be tested.

GF asked if whether CWP could now put power into the grid. MM responded yes, that 240MW for the project, 52MW of power can be generated, which is about 20% at the moment. There is only a window of 10 turbines at a time.

Photographs of turbines explained by MM (Slide 3),

Next 3 Months:

- Rehabilitation and remediation works across all parts of the project.
- HV Electrical Cable Terminations
- Main Lift and WTG Installation Eastern Cluster (tower sections, nacelles, blades, etc)
- Energisation / Commissioning / Hold Point Testing of WTG Units in the Western Cluster
- Xmas / New Year Period – Current plan is to have the period off with some minor commissioning works being undertaken

Complaints Register (see Slide 5 for full details):

No complaints received since the last meeting.

General Communications Register (see Slide 6 for full details):

Mainly based on people seeking directions to site for deliveries and potential workers seeking employment. There are stringent controls still on site and in the future moving forward. There are approximately 170-180 workers on site and restrictions are in place to avoid grouping together. It is hoped to hold an Open Day next year, however, this will be based on COVID.

General Business

- GF advised that he would not be running in the upcoming local government elections on 4/12/21. LA advised that she would write to Yass Valley Council in the New Year seeking a replacement delegate and invited GF to remain on the CCC as a community members, stating that he has a strong history of the project and was well respected in the area. GF accepted.
- GF enquired about the Community Enhancement Fund. LD advised that a 355 committee will be established overseeing the distribution of funds. LD has spoken the Council's General Manager, however, it is likely that the committee will be set up in the first part of 2022 to reflect the commencement of turbines being operational into the grid. There will be \$2,800 per turbine, per year as each ones starts. LD confirmed that there are 25 turbines in the Yass Valley LGA (eastern cluster) & 21 in the Hilltops LGA (western cluster).

Community Engagement (see Slides 7-16)

LD provided the Community Engagement presentation, advising that activities remained slow during the past quarter due to the COVID-19 situation.

- September newsletter distributed
- Involvement with both Yass Valley and Boorowa Business Chambers (via Zoom during much of the time)
- Weekly presence in both Yass and Boorowa (lockdowns permitting)
- Community sponsorship program – special funding opportunity - applications open to 12th November 2021.

Bango Art Project

LD explained the background behind the remarkable Bango Art project (Slide 8 for picture):

Created by a Yorta Yorta man who had been working on BWF, this incredible piece of art has been purchased by CWPR. It shows:

- * The hills around BWF
- * The site layout
- * Past, present and future
- * All those who have worked on BWF.

The painting will be displayed in CWPR's Canberra office.

Christmas Light Up Competition for the Yass Valley (Slide 9)

LD explained that entries close on 3 December 2021 with winners announced on 17 December 2021. Entries will be judged by a representative each from Boorowa & Yass Business Chambers, CWP & GE based on:

- Presentation, general appearance layout and design
- Light – use of colour, form and composition, variety and repetition
- Creativity, innovation and passion
- Reflection of spirit of the Christmas; with prizes contributed by GE.

“Tuppence the Orphan Turbine” story book project (Slides 10-16).

LD provided an update on this project and showed the illustrations received from two schools (so far).

CWP finished its presentation by wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas

Meeting Schedule

Following discussion with members it was agreed that the CCC meetings will continue regularly throughout 2022 whilst the project is still under construction. Meetings will be held alternately between Boorowa & Yass. Meetings will be moved back to Tuesdays to assist in gaining a full complement of attendance. Accordingly, the following dates were set:

- Tuesday, 1 March 2022 (Boorowa), commencing at 10am
- Tuesday 26 July 2022 (Yass), commencing at 10am; and
- Tuesday 22 November 2022 (Boorowa), commencing at 10am.

Noting that an extra-ordinary meeting may be called at any time should the need arise.

Meeting closed at 12.07am with LA thanking all for their attendance and as it was the last meeting for 2021, wishing members a safe and happy festive season.

Action Items

Item	Issue	Responsibility
1	MMc to keep the CCC informed of any further developments with CASA on this matter, should they arise.	MMc