



MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Thursday 15 September 2022
Inverell Shire Council (Committee Rooms)
144 Otho St, Inverell

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
David Williamson (DW)	Sapphire Wind Farm Representative
Cr Stewart Berryman (SB)	Councillor - Inverell Shire Council
Anthony Alliston (AA)	Inverell Shire Council
Cr Troy Arandale (TA)	Deputy Mayor - Glen Innes Severn Council & delegate
Ben Swan (BS)	Host Landholder
Neil Eigeland (NE)*	Community Representative
Dane O'Connor (DO)*	Department of Regional NSW (guest)
Chris Voll (CV)	Community Representative (Church Communities Australia & Inverell Chamber of Commerce & Industry)

Apologies: Annabel Sides – Community Representative

Absent: Mike Norton – Community Representative
Matthew Velcich – Business in Glen

**Joined via video-conferencing (ZOOM)*

ITEM		ACTION/COMMENTS									
1.0 Welcome and Introductions CCC meeting opened at 9.03am by LA who welcomed all attendees. LA introduced Dane O'Connor, Business Development Manager, Regional Development and Programs and invited him to provide some background to members. Noting that DO has replaced Peter Sniekers, who has retired from the Department.											
2.0 Apologies As listed above.											
3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 16 th June 2022 were finalised and distributed to CCC members.		Emailed 7/7/21.									
4.0 Declaration of Interests LA advised that there have been no changes to her previous declarations. She is an approved Independent Chairperson with DP&E and engaged by CWP to chair the meeting.		LA confirmed that Cr Arandale has completed his governance forms.									
5.0 Business Arising Action Items from previous meeting:		1. Included in this presentation. (Item 8.0) 2. TA advised that the New England Councils have signed a statement of expectations to enter into a power purchase agreement for the NE REZ proposal.									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).</td> <td>DW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Raise at next NEJO meeting whether it will consider entering into green energy purchase agreement. Complete.</td> <td>CS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ISSUE	WHOM	1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).	DW	2	Raise at next NEJO meeting whether it will consider entering into green energy purchase agreement. Complete.	CS	
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<p>6.0 Correspondence as per email 2/9/22, with two additional items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23/6/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 16/6/21. • 7/7/21 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. • 14//22 – Email from GIS Council advising of new delegate on the CCC (Cr Troy Arandale – Deputy Mayor). • 27/6/22 – Email to members with a save the date for 3/8/22 CCC in Inverell. • 13/7/22 - Email to members moving date to 15/9/22. • 2/9/22 – Email to CCC members with Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this CCC. • 12/9/22 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting. • 13/9/22 – Email to member with the link to join via video-conferencing. 	<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>7.0 Project Update DW provided the project update:</p> <p>Ongoing annual maintenance of the wind turbines, site roads and weed management continue.</p> <p>Continued Improvement Modifications (CIM) are ongoing.</p> <p>Lightning protection system has been upgraded and completed on all blades. Additional personnel are on site for the next two months for blade maintenance, so there will be an increase in traffic.</p> <p>Annual inspections by Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) and Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) have been carried out with no areas of concern being reported.</p> <p>Year 2 of the Bird and Bat Management survey/report has been submitted to DPE for review and advice on the monitoring program moving forward. Currently awaiting response.</p> <p>Power generation was on budget for 2021; with power generation ahead of budget for 2022. Higher return than forecasted.</p> <p>Partners Group has reviewed its investment in CWP Renewables and has decided to sell the business.</p> <p>It is likely that the sale of CWPR will not materially change the way the business is carried out. The project is a growth platform and likely to be attractive to a wide range of bidders.</p>	
<p>8.0 Solar & Battery Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date for construction of the battery project is not confirmed, however targeting the beginning of next year (2023). • The solar project is still in pre-construction tendering and financing process and would not start construction until later 2023 at the earliest. 	
<p>9.0 Community Benefit Fund DW advised that the CBF is going well. The last meeting was held at the beginning of 2021. The first saw \$100,000 allocated to 16 groups and second round of 2021 saw \$50,000 allocated to nine groups, which equated to approximately half of the applications received. The first round of 2022 saw \$150,000 awarded to 18 groups.</p> <p>CV asked what the average ball park range was for projects. DW stated that it varied, however, \$7,500 - \$10,000 was an average.</p>	

<p>BS provided some further statistics on funding to date:</p> <p>2019 Rd1 – 13 successful applications with an average grant of \$8,000 2019 Rd2 – 11 successful applications with an average grant of \$6,500 2020 Rd1 – 10 successful applications with an average grant of \$10,000 2020 Rd2 – 7 successful applications with an average grant of \$10,000 2021 – 23 successful applicants with an average grant of \$6,500.</p> <p>SB commented that there are a broad range of sporting and cultural projects approved.</p> <p>TA advised that the White Rock WF provided \$193,000 in community grant funding last year, which increases each year with CPI. Further, Council is trying to build a bigger project as the smaller projects have been exhausted (BBQ areas, sports jerseys, etc.)</p> <p>DW advised that similar discussion around funding a large project has been discussed by the 355 committee however CWP renewables are happy with the allocations to date and the broad spread across the community.</p> <p>The CCC were reminded that there is also the planning re-zoning rates adjustment which provides funds for road maintenance, etc.</p> <p>BS stated that SWF contribution is per turbine.</p> <p>CV enquired whether applications that provided \$ for \$ funding or in-kind assistance were more favoured. SB advised that it is not part of the policy, however, can weight applications potential for success as it allows bigger projects/events to be constructed/held.</p>	
<p>9.0 General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW advised that CWP has just released publicity for a proposed wind farm west of Guyra in the Boorolong and Dumaresq area. A flyer was passed around the table that provided dates on the Drop-In Community Information Sessions for Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st September 2022 at the Armidale City Bowling Club. 	<p>Action: Send flyer to CCC members.</p>
<p>10.0 Meeting Schedule for 2023</p> <p>LA sought the committee's concurrence to continue with annual meetings. Reminding members that an extraordinary meeting can be called at the request of any community members, stakeholder group or the proponent.</p> <p>The next meeting of the CCC is scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thursday 29th June 2023, commencing at 9am, Inverell Shire Council meeting room, Inverell. 	<p>Agreed.</p>

Meeting closed at 9.25am with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing)	DW
2	Send flyer to CCC members (complete)	DW/LA