



**MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE**

9am, Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019  
RSM Club, Evans St, Inverell

**Attendees:**

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chair
Patric Millar (PM)	CWP Asset Management
David Williamson (DW)	SWF Facility Manager
Cr Carol Sparks (CS)	Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council & delegate
Chris Voll (CV)	Church Communities Australia & Inverell Business Chamber
Anthony Alliston (AA)	Manager, Development Services (Inverell Shire Council)
Cr Stewart Berryman (SB)	Alternate - Community Representative & Inverell Shire Council
Annabel Sides (AS)	Community Representative
Ben Swan (BS)	Community Representative (host land owner)
Neil Eigeland (NE)	Community Representative
Mike Norton (MN)	Community Representative ( <i>arrived at 9.09am</i> )

**Apologies:**

Delegate – Business in Glen  
Peter Sniekers – Office of Regional Development

ITEM		ACTION/COMMENTS	
<b>1.0 Welcome and Introductions</b> CCC meeting opened at 9.02am by LA who welcomed all attendees and introduced the Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Carol Sparks to BS & NE who were apologies at the previous meeting.			
<b>2.0 Apologies</b> As listed above.			
<b>3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes</b> In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 were finalised and distributed to CCC members.		<b>Emailed 13/11/18</b>	
<b>4.0 Declaration of Interests</b> LA stated that she is an approved Independent Chairperson with DP&E and engaged by CWP to chair the meeting.		<b>No changes to members' declarations of interests.</b>	
<b>5.0 Business Arising</b> <b>Action Items from previous meeting:</b>		<b>1 Complete - Email from PM on 14/12/18.</b> <b>2 AA advised that Paul Henry from ISC will be attending the next Chamber meeting.</b> <b>3 Complete – emailed with the finalised minutes on 16/11/18.</b> <b>4 Complete – emailed 22/11/18. Response received from DPE – LA moved that this correspondence be read out in Correspondence. Accepted.</b> <b>5 CS advised that GIS Council resolved that</b>	
	<b>ISSUE</b>		<b>WHOM</b>
<b>1</b>	Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting		PM
<b>2</b>	AA to enquire with ISC, who will be attending the Business Chamber meeting from Council and advise CV & CCC.		AA
<b>3</b>	LA to scan guidelines & distribute to CCC members		LA
<b>4</b>	LA to write to CASA & DPE regarding the CCC and broader community's concerns with the aviation lighting.		LA
<b>5</b>	CS to discuss this issue with GISC to provide a consistent response to DPE.		CS

**Aviation Lighting Trial**

- PM advised the CCC that the trial is underway with some turbines (71/3/4 & 5) switched to 10% and turbines 63, 64, 66,67, & 69 switched to 30%. The remainder of the turbines have stayed at 100%. The lights are no longer flashing.
- PM has been discussing the matter with Kevin Scrimshaw – Head of Risk at CASA to try and facilitate a satisfactory outcome.
- CWP are awaiting confirmation on when the site will be inspected by CASA representatives, following which they will report to DP&E. It is expected that a further review will be undertaken in 12 months’ time.
- The trial has required additional work to be undertaken on the turbines and software updates to be carried out by Vesta in Denmark for installation back on site.
- NE enquired about the intensity and luminosity of the lights with the variations.
- PM advised that the standard CASA requirement was 2,000 candela so:
  - 100% = 2,000; 30% 600 and 10% 200. DW commented that at a 5km radius he could see the 10% lights easily.
- BS enquired whether the ‘radar’ option was still being considered. PM stated that he is hopeful of formal change from CASA in that the whole project will be reduced to 10% shortly, with a review after 12 months of operation. .
- It was agreed that the radar option cost of \$2M was a great impost on the project and that CWP was already adhering to its conditions of consent.
- AS asked if the radar system was to be installed on the turbines, would it be placed on every one? PM advised that it was only necessary to install on a few selected turbines.
- PM advised that CASA had just provided its comments on Stage 2 of the Boco Rock Wind Farm in Nimmitabel, advising that there are no requirements for the provision of lighting on their turbines, which are proposed to be higher than Sapphires.
- All committee members stated that the only acceptable outcome for Sapphire would be “no” lights. It was agreed that GISC & ISC should also lobby through the Local Government Association to ensure consistent advice is provided on all new and existing wind farms.
- Discussions ensued about further possible input from local state and federal members, as well as the National Wind Farm Commissioner (NWFC).
- CV stated that he welcomed the trial, however, recommended that further correspondence be sent to CASA & NWFC reinforcing the communities concerns and push for ‘no’ lights; commenting that if a future air school for recreational flying had concerns, then they could fund the radar option or obtain a \$1 for \$1 grant through the government.
- AA commented that CWP could lodge a modification with DPE to have the condition requiring the lighting removed.

**the community donation of \$5,000 from the project would be allocated through its’ annual Donation Review Committee. Council should ratify this decision at its February 2019 meeting. CS will provide feedback on where the money is spent. AA (ISC) to communicate with counterpart at GISC for consistency when commenting on SSD wind farm applications/ Modifications.**

**LA to provide information for CS & SB to take to Council to assist. Copy to local state and federal members.**

**LA to write to CASA & NWFC**

**6.0 Correspondence as per email 8/1/19:**

- 2/11/18 – Email to members with the Community Investment initiative Roadshow dates.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5/11/18 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 30/10/18 for review.</li> <li>• 13/11/18 – Email to members with the finalised minutes.</li> <li>• 21/11/18 – Email &amp; letter from GISC advising that the Mayor will be Council's delegate on this CCC.</li> <li>• 22/11/18 – Email &amp; letter to CASA concerning the aviation lighting. (No response)</li> <li>• 22/11/18 – Email &amp; letter to DPE concerning the aviation lighting.</li> <li>• 6/12/18 – Email from GISC regarding its Community Benefit Fund allocation (\$5000) will be placed in Council's Annual Donation Review Committee for appropriate disbursement.</li> <li>• 14/12/18 – Email from Patric Millar with Aviation Lights trials and advice that the project is now operational.</li> <li>• 17/12/18 – Email to members advising of the above information.</li> <li>• 8/1/19 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting</li> <li>• 17/1/19 – Email from DPE with its response regarding the aviation lighting.</li> <li>• 19/1 /19 - Email to members with a reminder for this meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>LA read out to members.</b></p>
<p><b>7.0 Project Presentation</b></p> <p>PM advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handover of the operations had occurred in December 2018.</li> <li>• The 75 turbines are fully operational.</li> <li>• Read out the letter from CASA to DPE regarding the Boco Rock Wind Farm. LA requested that this be forwarded through to her for information.</li> <li>• Noise monitoring will be undertaken over the next two months from adjoining properties. Previous monitoring showed that the results were compliant.</li> </ul>	<p><b>AS confirmed that she had not received any complaints from residents in the Swan Vale area regarding noise.</b></p>
<p><b>8.0 General Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BS asked about the progress of the Solar Farm. PM advised that there has been a delay (4-6 months) with the design engineer. Currently working through some ecological matters, preparation of management plans (biodiversity, traffic management, etc). Hoping to commence construction in July 2019 with a workforce of approximately 200 people during this 18 month period. It was noted that there is no community fund associated with this project, however, a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) may be entered into.</li> <li>• MN asked if the brand of batteries had been chosen. PM advised that no decision has been made yet.</li> <li>• AS wished to thank CWP on behalf of the Swanvale community for the grant for the Swanvale Recreation Facility. The project will be undertaken over stages, commencing with fencing and installation of slab. Relying on community labour to undertake works.</li> <li>• NE commented that the field day went well and that there are some senior science classes in the GI &amp; Inverell area that would benefit from site visits. DW advised that this may be an option in the future.</li> <li>• CV enquired about the ISC Community Benefit Fund allocation. SB advised that applications are currently open and close at the end of March 2019. AA tabled advertisement that was currently on the ISC website. Any projects requiring DA approval, may have funding allocation, subject to consent.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MN reiterated to the two Council delegates the importance of pressing forward with the communities concerns with the aviation lighting and offered assistance. He requested that they come back to this committee with their actions to date and proposed plans in addressing the community's concerns.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CS &amp; SB to provide feedback to the CCC on proposed actions.</b></p>
<p><b>9.0 Next Meeting</b></p> <p>DW asked about the meeting frequency, now that the project was operational. LA put the matter to the committee for consideration.</p> <p>LA asked if CCC members had any ideas on future presentations to be provided to the committee, ie noise monitoring results, environmental issues, etc. No suggestions received.</p> <p>LA advised that she had received representations from CWP to hold all future meetings in Inverell. No objections raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 30th April 2019</li> <li>Tuesday 16th July 2019; and</li> <li>Tuesday 29th October 2019.</li> </ul>	<p><b>It was agreed to hold the meetings on a quarterly basis while the aviation lighting issue was such a significant issue within the community. LA advised that the matter can be listed for future consideration in July/October.</b></p>

**Meeting closed at 10.10am** with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting	PM/LA Ongoing
2	GISC & ISC to lobby LGA for consistent approach across all wind farms in NSW in relation to the requirements for aviation lighting. Also to provide feedback to the CCC on Councils' proposed actions.	CS/SB
3	Write to DPE, CASA and NWFC reiterating community concerns with aviation lighting (copies to local state and federal members)	LA