



# MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
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                                      |
| Peter Sniekers (PS)      | Office of Regional Development                                |

## Apologies:

Ben Swan – Community Representative (host land owner)  
Neil Eigeland – Community Representative  
Mike Norton – Community Representative  
Kylie Hawkins – Business in Glen

| ITEM   |  | ACTION/COMMENTS  |   |    |   |  |    |   |
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| <b>1.0 Welcome and Introductions</b><br>CCC meeting opened at 9.05am by LA who welcomed all attendees and introduced the Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council, Cr Carol Sparks who is Council's new delegate.  |  | <b>All attendees introduced themselves &amp; stated their position on the CCC.</b> |   |    |   |  |    |   |
| <b>2.0 Apologies</b><br>As listed above.   |  |  |   |    |   |  |    |   |
| <b>3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes</b><br>In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018 were finalised and distributed to CCC members.  |  | <b>Emailed 28/7/18</b>   |   |    |   |  |    |   |
| <b>4.0 Declaration of Interests</b><br>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><br><br><b>Action Items from previous meeting:</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="width: 85%;">Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>Presentation from Inverell Shire Council regarding the establishment of the Community Benefit Fund and how the funds will be spent</td> <td style="text-align: center;">SB</td> </tr> </table> <p>2 - SB provided a verbal presentation on the establishment and guidelines of the Community Benefit Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ A 355 committee has been established by the Inverell Shire (ISC).</li> <li>❖ The committee will sit and consider the funds provided by the Sapphire Wind Farm project.</li> </ul> |  | 1  | Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting | PM | 2 | Presentation from Inverell Shire Council regarding the establishment of the Community Benefit Fund and how the funds will be spent | SB | <b>Included in project update.</b><br><br><b>SB provided verbal presentation.</b> |
| 1  | Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting  | PM   |   |    |   |  |    |   |
| 2  | Presentation from Inverell Shire Council regarding the establishment of the Community Benefit Fund and how the funds will be spent | SB   |   |    |   |  |    |   |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ The funds will be administered by ISC and be held in a trust account, which will accrue interest.</li> <li>❖ Applications for grant funding will be open to all community/sporting groups in the shire.</li> <li>❖ Advertising of the community fund will be undertaken in the local paper.</li> <li>❖ CV asked if the Business Chamber were being advised.</li> <li>❖ SB stated that arrangements have been made to present the information to a future Inverell Business Chamber meeting.</li> <li>❖ Applications will be open until the end of March 2019.</li> <li>❖ Sapphire Wind Farm will contribute funds at the end of the year (\$182,500), which is based on the number of turbines.</li> <li>❖ 73 turbines are located within Inverell shire.</li> <li>❖ GIS Council will received funds for 2 turbines that are located in its shire.</li> <li>❖ GIS Council is yet to advise how it wishes to receive its \$5,000 (as a donation to its general fund, small grants fund, etc)</li> <li>❖ AS reminded CWP of its commitment to the Swan Vale community (SVC). PM confirmed that the donation to SVC is a separate donation and will not come out of the community fund trust.</li> <li>❖ CS enquired whether she could sit on the 355 committee. SB suggested she write to ISC.</li> <li>❖ A copy of the draft guidelines was presented.</li> <li>❖ PS enquired whether economic development had been included in the guidelines; as there was opportunities available with the Stronger Country Communities Grants program, which could be combined to assist in more substantial projects.</li> </ul> | <p><b>Action: AA to enquire with ISC, who will be attending the Business Chamber meeting from Council and advise CV &amp; CCC.</b></p> <p><b>LA to scan guidelines &amp; distribute to CCC members.</b></p> <p><b>No further business arising.</b></p> |
| <p><b>6.0 Correspondence tabled</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2/11/18 – Email to members with the Community Investment Initiative Roadshow dates</li> <li>• 14/7/18 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 3/5/18 for review</li> <li>• 28/7/18 – Email to members with the finalised minutes</li> <li>• 17/8/18 – Email from Ed Mounsey advising of the Sapphire Solar Farm approval.</li> <li>• 11/10/18 – Email to members regarding the Open Day and bus timetable.</li> <li>• 16/10/18 – Email from GIS Council regarding its delegate</li> <li>• 17/10/18 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice and Agenda for this meeting</li> <li>• 24/10/18 – Response to GIS Council regarding delegate.</li> <li>• 25/10/18 – Email from Ben Swan with an apology for this meeting.</li> <li>• 26/10/18 – Email from GIS Council advising that Mayor, Cr Carol Sparks will be its delegate on this CCC.</li> <li>• 26/10/18 - Email to members with a reminder for this meeting.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>As emailed with Meeting Notice.</b></p> <p><b>No questions.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>7.0 Project Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM advised that CCC that the Community Open Day was an overall success, with approximately 1,000 people attending.</li> <li>• To his knowledge there were only 2 negative comments, with the majority being very positive.</li> <li>• Approximately 500 people came into the town to attend, which was a benefit to the shire.</li> <li>• There appears to be great interest in renewables.</li> <li>• The last blade will be lifted on Sunday.</li> </ul>  |  |

- A couple of blades have been damaged during movements.
- Roads are being cleaned up and dilapidation reports undertaken, including bridge inspections.
- RMS will carry out inspections of Gwydir Highway intersection and advise CWP what remediation work will need to be undertaken.
- Containers are being taken off site. CV asked if there were any containers available for sale. PM advised that most were accounted for, however, he would put him on the list.
- Cranes will be taken off site and roads re-graded.

### **Aviation Lighting**

- Following the last meeting, the company wrote to CASA expressing its desire to consult.
- A meeting was held on 5/8/18 with CASA, DPE & CWP to discuss the issue.
- Anita Taylor (Acting Chair and board member on CASA) visited the project site & environs to view in person. She stated she would table the situation at the next board meeting.
- The lights have now been set in "steady state".
- CV & AS both stated that this appears to be better than the flashing, however, wanted to know what else could be done to progress the matter of radar lights only.
- PM advised that he has been working on the issue for 4 months.
- The aviation charts have been updated to include the Sapphire Turbines and will be released on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- AS stated that now the turbines are located on the charts, then the lights should be able to be turned off permanently.
- CV advised that he had been contacted by the local newspaper for comment. He questioned whether the community should become more involved. Further that he could organise for each household in the Danthonia Community to write their objection to the lights. Following discussions about this matter it was agreed that the Chair would write to the head of CASA, copy to the Secretary of DPE advising of the community's concerns.
- PM advised that White Rock Wind Farm currently has a modification in for assessment with DPE and that the matter of aviation lighting would be a matter for consideration.
- AA advised that he had submitted comments to DPE on behalf of ISC regarding the White Rock application, raising concerns with the lighting issue, the inconsistency of consent conditions and cumulative impacts from neighbouring wind farms.
- AA has requested DPE provide clarity around this issue with a definitive condition, ie review prior to construction, as it's not good enough to occur after construction.
- It was agreed that the community were not aware of the potential lighting issue. PM confirmed that the information was contained with the EIS, however, was reliant on the comments from CASA.
- PM stated that the radar lights could be fitted by VESTAS, however the cost of \$1.5 - 2M had not been allocated in the budgeting of construction for the project. Discussions were continuing with the project's investors.
- Other issues were discussed in terms of mitigation/visual screening.
- Local federal member and state member has been briefed and have contacted CASA.

**Action: LA to write to CASA & DPE regarding the CCC and broader community's concerns with the aviation lighting.**

**CS to discuss this issue with GISC to provide a consistent response to DPE.**

**Action ongoing. PM to keep the CCC informed of the progress of the aviation lighting.**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CS recommended that representations be made to John Barilaro as well as the Federal Minister for Transport. PM advised that they had met with Adam Marshall and Barnaby Joyce.</li> <li>PM advised that the Wind Alliance were also making representations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Co-Investment Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM advised that the Community Co-Investment initiative will have a roadshow across the region in early December, where people can hear details of the offer and fill in application forms. It may be opened earlier online to the participants of the investment survey. Exact details of the fund will be available in the weeks leading up to the roadshow. Priority will be given those in the immediate vicinity of the wind farm. Events will be held in Glen Innes - 5/12, Armidale 6/12, Wellingrove 7/12 and Inverell 8/12.</li> <li>To buy into the wind farm, it will cost \$1,250 per share.</li> <li>AS asked to explain how the initiative worked.</li> <li>PM stated that it is an equity swap – investors buy in to the project, which reduces the company’s debt and allows the community to benefit with a share in the profits.</li> </ul> <p><b>Solar Farm Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sapphire Solar Farm received approval in August 2018.</li> <li>Currently undertaking post approval planning; traffic management plan (to be submitted to RMS &amp; Council) Office of Environment of Heritage approvals, Indigenous (relocation of artefacts) management plan, etc.</li> <li>Hope to commence construction in January 2019.</li> <li>The project covers an area of 464 hectares with 660,000 panels.</li> <li>A proposed two year build is envisaged.</li> <li>A facebook page has been created for contractors to register for work.</li> <li>The Northern Tablelands is now the largest renewable energy area in Australia and in the short term – the world.</li> <li>CS enquired whether TESLA batteries were going to be used. PM advised that this decision has not yet been made.</li> </ul> | <p><b>A flyer was provided to all attendees.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>8.0 General Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AS advised that she is able to hear the turbines early in the morning, which is a drumming noise.</li> <li>PM advised that the first round of noise testing has occurred on the Kings Plain Road and there is more testing to be undertaken. Data from weather stations will be taken into consideration.</li> <li>Noise readings to date have been compliant below the 35dB threshold at 2.5 km</li> <li>AS raised the issue of using the water trucks, given the drought conditions. PM advised that it was a condition of consent to suppress dust.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>9.0 Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The meeting schedule for 2019 will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuesday 22nd January 2019 (Glen Innes)</li> <li>Tuesday 30th April 2019 (Inverell)</li> <li>Tuesday 16th July 2019 (Glen Innes); and</li> <li>Tuesday 29th October 2019 (Inverell)</li> </ul>   | <p><b>It was agreed to continue holding meetings on a quarterly cycle for 2019 at alternate locations (Inverell &amp; Glen Innes).</b></p> |

**Meeting closed at 10.08am** with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

| <b>ITEM</b> | <b>ISSUE</b>   | <b>WHOM</b> |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 1           | Keep members informed regarding negotiations with the aviation lighting                                      | PM          |
| 2           | AA to enquire with ISC, who will be attending the Business Chamber meeting from Council and advise CV & CCC. | AA          |
| 3           | LA to scan guidelines & distribute to CCC members.   | LA          |
| 4           | LA to write to CASA & DPE regarding the CCC and broader community's concerns with the aviation lighting.     | LA          |
| 5           | CS to discuss this issue with GISC to provide a consistent response to DPE.                                  | CS          |