

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 10**

Date/Time:	Tuesday, 28 May 2019 5pm – 7pm
Location:	Council Chambers, Gunning 123 Yass Street, Gunning
Attendees:	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Councillor Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member Jenifer Heffernen (JH), Observer Tim Mead (TM), (Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy), Applicant Representative Robbie Williamson (RW) (Beijing Jingneng Clean Energy), Applicant Representative Zachary Wood (ZW) (CATCON), Construction Representative
Apologies:	Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC welcomed everyone to the 10th CCC meeting • Apology received from Shane Laverty • Nothing heard from John McCue, Kathy Cosgrove or Vince Heffernan • NC read out his annual report on the Biala Wind Farm CCC which is provided to the Department of Planning and Environment
2. Code of Conduct & Agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the Declaration of Interest since the previous meeting.
3. CCC Meeting Minutes
CCC #9 Meeting Minutes were adopted
4. Neighbour Program
<p>The Biala Wind Farm Neighbour Program was discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently launched by BJCE • Incorporates recommendations from Wind Farm Commissioner and current wind farm best practice • Neighbours asked to acknowledge minor impacts during construction. • Annual payments made to participating neighbours. Size of payment depends on which band the residence or property falls in. This was discussed in detail. • TM confirmed the program would not be extended to GRWF. GRWF has the Clean Energy Program which will not be extended to Biala Wind Farm. • Although some residents at GRWF may feel they have missed out, it is important to recognize that when GRWF was built the Clean Energy Program

was above best practice at that time. This is a voluntary scheme which BJCE see as good industry practice for a new wind farm in today's market.

5. Project Update

- Since last CCC BJCE have been mainly working on finalising the major construction contracts – Civil Balance of Plant, Electrical Balance of Plant and Turbine Supply & Installation. Contracts should be placed soon.
- Met masts erected in February and have been collecting wind data
- Range Road upgrades required under the Condition of Consent (7km surface upgrade and replacement of culverts) commenced 2 weeks ago (early May). Reiterated that the Kialla Road causeway replacements were already complete – pending final bitumen seal spray

6. Haulage Routes

- Two different routes specified in the Biala Wind Farm Conditions of Consent for Heavy Vehicles and for Oversized Vehicles.
- BJCE are aware of some community concern that these routes could potentially disadvantage some local contractors from participating depending where they were based.
- BJCE have made the Department of Planning and Environment aware of this point, and clarity was being sought.
- Routes could also restrict how CATCON could deliver the project as they would be looking to utilize local resources where they can
- Issue raised that on previous projects it was not just heavy vehicles that the community were concerned about and that light vehicles also need to be monitored for good conduct on the roads
- CCC members agreed that they would be supportive of unlocking other vehicle routes for local contractors.
- General invitation by BJCE to the CCC to invite anyone they are aware of who may want to offer their services to the project to add their details on the Biala Wind Farm website.
- Discussion of timings for heavy / oversized vehicle deliveries:
 - From commencement of construction until the end of this year the majority of the loads will be heavy vehicle deliveries.
 - Oversized deliveries for the turbine components are expected to start February 2020

7. Visual Mitigation

- Discussion around the Biala Wind Farm conditions of consent which states that residents within 4km of any turbine are eligible for visual impact mitigation
- BJCE will be proactive and alert residents to provide information and let them know if they are eligible

8. Civil Balance of Plant Representative

- TM introduced Zachary Johnson a Project Manager from CATCON (likely to be announced as that Civil Balance of Plant contractor) to discuss CATCON's experience on wind farms.
- High level description of the Civil engineering activities that will take place on Biala Wind Farm and the expected order of works. This was discussed in some detail.
- Traffic delays in relation to the site intersection works is important to communicate to the community
 - BJCE are operating a text messaging information service
- Clarification that TM is still the main point of contact for CCC

8. General Discussion

Community

- Discussion around potential community engagement events (turbine blade stopping in town, project BBQ, community site visits). Consensus that these would be worthwhile. To be discussed further in future CCCs
- Suggestion that using social media is a good way to raise community awareness
- On White Rock wind farm drone footage showing the construction which was well received by the community

Radiocommunications

- NC read out an email from Michael Katz regarding telecommunications, and asked BJCE to follow up with Michael.
- Improving mobile phone signal is a priority for residents in the Biala community.
- BJCE have already liaised with Paul Howard from Grabben Gullen Progress Association to understand the radiocommunications issues of the community

Bushfire

- RFS would like to meet with CATCON to discuss project plans
- Community concern around increase bushfire risk due to the wind farm and also the notification process for residents with poor mobile signal
 - Site presence and availability of equipment on site such as water carts helps to mitigate bush fire risk. CATCON have a safety system which considers bushfire risk.
 - Internal wind farm roads provide improved access to those areas which could assist fire fighting efforts
 - Protocol for notifying neighbours with poor mobile signal of a fire is to call land line
- Request that indicative roads and turbine locations be shared with local RFS

9. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting 20th August 7, 5pm till 7pm
Meeting closed 7:00pm