

**BIALA WIND FARM  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 16**

<b>Date/Time:</b>	Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
<b>Location:</b>	Grabben Gullen Community Hall, Grabben Gullen
<b>Attendees:</b>	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Kathy Cosgrove (KC), Committee Member Jenifer Heffernan (JH), Committee Member Tim Mead (TM), (BJCE), Applicant Representative Adam Lenihan (AL) (AECOM), Owner’s Construction Representative Elizabeth Picker (EP, (BJCE), Community Liaison Officer
<b>Apologies:</b>	George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member John McCue (JM), Committee Member Vince Heffernan (JH), Committee Member

**SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES**

<p><b>1. Welcome and Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NC welcomed everyone to the 16<sup>th</sup> CCC meeting</li> <li>• Apologies from JM and VH noted</li> <li>• NC detailed correspondence received as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A newsletter from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) about the ‘<i>Social Impact Assessment Guidelines</i>’ which is currently on public exhibition. NC confirmed he had circulated it to members and encouraged interested members to read the guidelines and make a submission.</li> <li>○ Email from Catherine Fox (CF), neighbour of Biala Wind Farm, who raised concerns about the aviation lighting and August Complaints Register. NC forwarded CF a copy of the latest Minutes. EP confirmed BWF has contacted CF since her email to the Chair.</li> <li>○ Email from Scott Montgomery (SM), community member, enquiring about the Biala Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund and its protocols. NC confirmed SM’s email was forwarded to TM and PC for follow-up. SM was supplied a copy of the ULSC Funding Agreement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Code of Conduct and Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: No change</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. CCC Meeting Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minutes for the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were agreed out of session and are on the website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Project Update</b></p>

**AL provided the following construction update:**

***Turbine erection works***

- Only one turbine and one rotor remain to be installed. AL confirmed all turbines should be erected early next week. 17 turbines are internally fitted, and 12 are now commissioned ready for energisation.
- Currently there is a maximum of 10 turbines operating at one time while the wind farm undertakes the hold point testing (grid testing). TM explained TransGrid has very stringent guidelines which means the wind farm has to pass grid hold point testing at certain intervals (this is the reason only 10 turbines are currently generating). TM confirmed construction will be completed before the grid testing is finished and that grid testing will continue past the end of February.

***Onsite works***

- Internal works in each turbine is expected to be completed by end of January 2021.
- Cranes will be demobilised from next week – the majority of truck movements will be along the heavy vehicle route, with a small number along the oversize route for each crane. **ACTION ITEM:** BJCE to issue text message to update community about the oversized loads.
- CATCON will return to site in approximately February 2021 for a final maintenance grade of the civil works.

***Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Building***

- The O&M Building is almost fully constructed.
- General discussion about the size and purpose of the O&M Building, and the photos in the latest Biala community newsletter. TM confirmed the Building was part of the projects planning approval. TM confirmed there are two areas within the Building – one is for the office and administrative works and the other is for storage associated with wind farm maintenance which includes spare parts, consumables and lubricants etc.

**TM provided the following project update:**

- GS has been onsite for the Rural Fire Service and provided feedback on the revised Bushfire Management Plan. TM confirmed there will be an onsite emergency drill organised soon.

***Aviation lights***

- After last CCC meeting, BJCE discussed the aviation lights again with the DPIE and re-consulted with Department of Defence (DOD). DOD re-iterated their request for aviation lights on the project. DPIE advised the project that we therefore must keep the lights switched on at this stage.
- TM explained the lights operate from 6pm – 12pm (midnight) during daylight savings time and from 5pm – 11pm at all other times.
- JH explained she finds the aviation lights distracting when driving at night, especially from Gunning to Grabben Gullen. JH said she can see the lights from Gunning. SL noted the lights strobe when the blades are spinning.
- There was a discussion about what more could be done by the CCC to have the aviation lights turned off. NC explained community members should use ULSC to engage the Local, State and Federal Members. PC confirmed he is happy to put forward a motion to USLC to support an application to turn off the aviation lights and lobby the DOD.
- SL asked how many aviation lights are installed per turbine as it appears there is two. **ACTION ITEM:** BJCE to confirm this.

- NC asked how often the members see Navy helicopters in the area. JH confirmed once a year. PC said there are a lot of medical helicopters that fly toward Canberra. JH explained she has witnessed the defence operations which occur once a year.
- KC said there is a lot of fog in the area and the aviation lights could be beneficial to avoid an aviation accident.
- PC confirmed the Federal Member is Minister Angus Taylor and the State Member is Wendy Tuckerman. PC said ULSC could write a possibly letter to Minister Taylor to request a meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Request ULSC to support the community's request to have the lights turned off.

#### *Range Road Roadworks – Pothole evident in road surface*

- TM explained ULSC has signed off on Range Road and that ULSC and Divalls have agreed a solution to fix the pot hole. There appears to be a spring underneath the road and the recent rainfall has made the area very wet. By Christmas 2020, the area should be dry enough for Divalls to dig up and establish a drainage blanket.
- SL asked if there is a warranty period on Range Road. TM confirmed there is a 12-month warranty. PC explained the pothole was identified and fixed before the works were signed off, however there is damage again and it requires a further fix.

#### *Range Road Roadworks – Rehabilitation works*

- Works are required to reinstate some intersections around Crookwell and out along Kialla Road and Range Road where the turbine deliveries occurred, to the satisfaction of ULSC.
- ULSC and Goldwind are developing a rehabilitation plan and the works should start in December 2020.

#### *Community Enhancement Fund*

- There has been some confusion about when the project is required to provide the funds to ULSC. TM has been speaking to PC and Tina Dodson from ULSC to resolve this. BJCE has committed that the project will provide the first year operational funds when it commences its operations phase in July 2021, subject to expected construction timelines.
- TM explained how the fund will work
  - Committee nomination will open from late November and continue until January 2021. This will include two Community Representatives.
  - The committee will be appointed and formed
  - An application process will be undertaken where community groups can submit their project grant applications
  - BWF will pay into the fund every July for the life of the project
- JH asked what constitutes the local community project radius. TM confirmed within 20km, but for the first three years, priority will be given to projects within 5km. **ACTION ITEM:** NC to circulate the VPA to members.
- JH asked if the priority projects don't total \$90,000, will the remaining funds go to the projects within 20km? TM confirmed that is correct.
- JH asked about the criteria for joining the committee. NC explained if a community member wants to apply, they nominate and ULSC will decide which applicants will be appointed. PC said previous committee members have submitted letters and ULSC Councillors can also make recommendations about those who nominate. KC asked if the nominees have to be from the local area. PC said it would be advantageous to be in the immediate area of the wind farm.
- TM explained GRWF runs an annual grant writing workshop to upskill applicant organisations and that BWF will also hold one for their local community groups. **ACTION**

**ITEM:** BJCE to arrange Biala grant writing workshop prior to fund applications opening.

- PH asked who decided which projects are funded. NC explained the appointed committee decide and ULSC ratify the funds.
- General discussion about GRWF’s recent funding round.
- JH said the Biala RFS need a new fire shed but they are not within the 5km priority band. JH said she would like to see the funds being utilised in the Biala area. PC urged JH to submit the application regardless of being outside of the priority band.
- General discussion about the funds being used in Crookwell, rather than the villages.
- PH suggested the community should focus on funding a bigger project with a longer term vision.
- JH explained the Biala community struggles with mobile phone coverage and that 3-4 mini cells, \$10,000-12,000 each would improve mobile phone reception in Biala.

**TV Disruption and Visual Landscaping**

- TM explained the projects conditions of consent for possible TV interference and visual amenity impacts.
- BJCE is currently drafting two programs to address these issues:
  - **TV program**
    - There will be a defined zoned for eligible houses. This will be a wider zone than the potential EMI zone in the Biala Wind Farm EIS.
    - The first step will be a questionnaire survey for impacted neighbours to provide feedback on their current TV reception quality.
    - PH asked if there is a map showing eligibility available. TM confirmed there is. **ACTION ITEM:** Circulate TV program map to members.
  - **Landscape program**
    - Houses located within 4km of a turbine are eligible.
    - TM explained the visual amenity requirements under the project’s conditions of consent.
    - There are two options for eligible residents. Option 1 involves a landscape consultant preparing a landscape plan consisting of tube stock to screen the view of the wind turbines and BJCE planting in accordance with the landscape plan. Option 2, is a cash-payment for the eligible resident as the agreed visual impact mitigation measure.
    - JH asked, under Option 2, what is the cash-payment amount? TM said it varies but it will be between \$2,000 – 5,000 depending on the neighbour’s proximity to the turbine and their impact.
- NC suggested BJCE use a range of tactics to engage with neighbours during the consultation process (letters, phone calls, F2F meetings). EP confirmed a mixture of all of these will be used.

**5. Complaints**

- Specific complaints were not discussed. The August complaints register can be found [here](#).

**6. General Discussion**

- JH requested BWF CCC web page should reflect that she is a member. NC to circulate JH details to EP to update the page. **ACTION ITEM:** BJCE to update member list on website.
- JH asked how long does the CCC remain active for? TM confirmed for the life of the project. NC noted that CCC meetings are normally less frequent in Operations.

- General discussion about members who have missed several meetings. NC explained the CCC guidelines. **ACTION ITEM:** NC to contact inactive members to seek clarification if they would still like to be a member of the CCC.

#### 7. Next Steps and Close

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 5.30pm

**Location:** Grabben Gullen Hall

**Meeting closed:** 6.20pm

\*Consolidated action item list on the next page.

### Consolidated Action Items

Action Item	Update
BJCE to provide updated high level Biala program to CCC members (ongoing)	Completed
NC to respond to Peter Gordon's email	TBC
NC to circulate NWFC presentation and contact details to members	2019 Annual Report can be read and downloaded <a href="#">here</a> .
BJCE to confirm if Biala and Gurrundah localities are within the 5km zone for the Community Enhancement Fund	Completed
PH will speak to GGCPA and encourage them to approach Council about turning off the aviation lights	
PC to flag the aviation lights at the upcoming Council meeting	Completed
BJCE to confirm the aviation light operation timings	Completed
BJCE to confirm if the ULSC would like a 100km speed sign installed along Range Road leaving Grabben Gullen	
EP to update Meeting 14 Minutes with updated aviation light information.	Completed
BJCE to issue text message to update community about the oversized loads.	
TM to confirm how many aviation lights are installed on each turbine.	
PC to request USLC to support the community's request to have the lights turned off.	
NC to circulate the VPA to members.	
TM to circulate TV Program map to members when available.	
EP to update member list on website	Completed



Action Item	Update
NC to contact inactive members to seek clarification if they would still like to be a member of the CCC.	
BJCE to arrange Biala grant writing workshop prior to CEF applications opening.	