

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 18**

Date/Time:	Thursday 13 th May 2021
Location:	Grabben Gullen Community Hall, Grabben Gullen
Attendees:	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Kathy Cosgrove (KC), Committee Member George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member Ian Lawrence (IL), Biala Wind Farm Representative Jochen Rasmussen (JR), Biala Wind Farm Representative Elizabeth Picker (EP) Biala Wind Farm Community Liaison Officer
Apologies:	Vince Heffernan (JH), Committee Member Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative Jenifer Heffernan (JH), Committee Member
Observers:	Bernadette Clancy (BC) John McGrath (JM) Paul Howard (PHD), Grabben Gullen Progress Association Scott Montgomery (SM), Grabben Gullen Progress Association

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC welcomed the members to the 18th CCC meeting • NC introduced and welcome IL and JR from BJCE Australia • NC introduced the four observers • Apologies from PC and VH noted • NC detailed correspondence received as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter from the Grabben Gullen Progress Association re: TV Reception Program ○ Letter from the Grabben Gullen Progress Association re: Aviation Hazard Lights
<p>2. Code of Conduct and Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: SL notified NC he received a free shipping container from Biala Wind Farm.
<p>3. CCC Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes for the 17th meeting were agreed out of session and are on the website.
<p>4. Complaints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The April complaints register can be found here.
<p>5. General Discussion</p> <p>Project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biala Wind Farm (BWF) representatives confirmed construction is largely finished.

- The turbines have been erected and are now capable of generating energy. Commissioning works with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and TransGrid are still ongoing. Currently 10 turbines at a time are permitted to generate energy. The ongoing works is to ensure the modelled performance of the turbines matches how they are actually performing and can be integrated into the network. Latest estimate for full operation is July/August 2021.
- The meeting discussed the causes of the delay and how this compared to other wind farms in the area. JR explained it's like any other power plant, it needs to come onto the grid in stages (10%, 30%, 60% and 100%) with a number of hold points the project needs to go through. BWF is at 30%. Some of the testing relies on demonstrating compliance under different wind and network conditions to the satisfaction of AEMO and TransGrid. Every project is slightly different. One difference with Biala compared to the Collector project for example is that it integrates with the existing substation at Gullen Range rather than using a purpose-built substation built by TransGrid.

Landscaping Program and TV Reception Program

- IL explained the Landscaping Program and the TV Reception Program has launched and applications are now open with interest from local residents. Take-up of these programs can be reported at future meetings – **ACTION ITEM.**

Correspondence from Grabben Gullen Progress Association (GGCPA) – TV Reception

- PHD and SM attended the meeting to raise issues associated with the TV program on behalf of the GGCPA. They explained there is a provision in BWF's Conditions of Consent about TV and radio communications. GGCPA has been trying to do something about mobile phone and TV reception in the village. GGCPA's preferred solution is the installation of a TV transmitter tower rerouted from the Black Mountain tower in Canberra and identified limitations with the VAST boxes being offered, notably the lack of local news. PHD acknowledged BJCE representatives have attended some meetings with the GGCPA and there has been subsequent email correspondence with the project. PHD expressed his disappointment with the progress and suggested BWF should not proceed with the BWF TV Reception Program until a second Drive Test is conducted and all of the turbines are fully operational.
- PHD raised his concern about a neighbour whose TV reception has deteriorated. EP confirmed this neighbour has been contacted and is eligible for the program.
- SM questioned the validity of the survey data from before Christmas which showed that 85% of respondents said that a VAST box would be useful to some degree and reiterated that the GGCPA would like a transmitter tower and that the TV Reception Program should be considered a stopgap.
- IL explained the condition of consent that requires BWF to rectify any issues caused by the wind farm. The initial study was to establish a baseline, to make it possible to tell whether the wind farm had affected reception at properties. The TV program was introduced in light of the historic issues with reception in the area following the switch to a digital signal in 2001. The TV Reception Program goes beyond the condition and was the fastest way to resolve the TV reception issue for the neighbours and community. The program is substantially quicker than installing a TV transmitter, it's available to everyone within 5km of the wind farm and it's also not compulsory to apply. BWF does not consider the program to be an interim measure and had no plans to pause the rollout.
- EP explained a number of local news channels are now available on VAST and the TV guide is available on BWF's website. VAST TV guide can be found [here](#).
- NC reminded the CCC that BJCE did suggest they would contribute funding toward a transmitter tower if it was initially funded and installed by the Federal Government

- PH queried if the TV Reception Program will impact the possibility of getting a transmitter tower. EP explained TV reception in general is a Federal Government issue.
- NC asked the CCC how much a transmitter tower costs. PHD said the Crookwell transmitter tower cost \$300,000.00 and explained the process. NC asked how much a VAST box costs. PHD provided a cost breakdown on a typical VAST box installation.
- Committee members expressed concern for people who may have TV reception affected.
- NC suggested the GGCPA could approach Upper Lachlan Shire Council about utilising the first three years of the Biala Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) to fund the transmitter tower. SM explained the community has other projects they would like to use the CEF for.
- PHD asked GS about the Rural Fire Service (RFS) microwave link. GS confirmed BJCE installed a tower to redirect the RFS transmission and bypass the turbines. It was a condition in the planning approval.
- SM discussed the transmitter tower that was installed at Taralga. NC suggested BWF look into the average cost to install and maintain a transmitter tower. – ACTION ITEM.

Aviation Hazard Lights

- PH spoke about a site visit with Wendy Tuckerman MP had been undertaken since the last CCC meeting. He explained he read the letter from the Minister Stokes which quoted BWF's Conditions of Consent, so he contacted Wendy Tuckerman MP who agreed to an evening site visit to assess the aviation lights. They visited key areas of impact and also visited BC's residence. PH said he contacted Mrs Tuckerman today who confirmed she has written to Minister Stokes and, when she receives a reply from Minister Stokes, she will contact Minister Taylor. Wendy informed Minister Stokes the aviation hazard lights are not low impact; guards are not installed, and a number of community members are impacted.
- NC explained the activities ULSC/PC has undertaken to have the lights turned off. IL expressed his sympathy for neighbours and explained the consultation with authorities is still ongoing. BC asked if BWF has received permission to turn the lights off, claiming it has been a very slow process and is taking a long time. BC suggested the BWF CEF could be used to employ a lobbyist to undertake the consultation work to have the lights turned off. NC assured the CCC he will let the members know as soon as there is an update.
- SL queried why there are no guards on the light when previously confirmed the lights did have guards on them. IL agreed to look into both this and the lights' intensity – ACTION ITEM.
- PH reminded the CCC that everyone is on the same team and working together to have the lights turned off.
- SM asked if the letters from CASA and the army base are publicly available. IL to find out if letters and responses are publicly available – ACTION ITEM.

Additional Q/A from observers

- JM, a visitor from the Coppabella Wind Farm CCC, asked several questions relating to who takes the minutes, which entity owns the wind farm, the Gullen Range substation and an easement.
- Answers were provided where possible to do so with the proviso that additional detail would be required to provide more comprehensive answers.

General business

- KC asked how long JR and IL have been with BJCE. IL said two weeks and that he will be involved across BJCE's portfolio. JR explained he is an asset manager and will be involved

from now on.

- SM asked whether all heavy vehicles will be maintaining the approved access routes, given development is still occurring on site. IL confirmed the approved construction transport routes will be followed until the project becomes operational.
- SL/GS reminded BJCE that the tree stump has not been removed. IL to follow-up and confirm when it will be removed – ACTION ITEM.
- GS confirmed he will contact the project for an RFS visit.
- KC asked who had been appointed to the BWF CEF committee. SM confirmed it was Paul Hewitt and Scott Keyworth.

6. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting: Thursday, 19th August 2021 at 5.30pm.

Location: Grabben Gullen Hall

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

*Consolidated action item list on the next page.

Consolidated Action Items

Action Item	Update
BJCE to provide a program update at future meetings	
IL to look into the average cost to install and maintain a transmitter tower	
IL to follow-up and confirm when the tree stump will be removed	
IL to find out if aviation hazard light letters and responses are publicly available	
IL to confirm if the aviation lights change colour	
BJCE to investigate the possible corrugating on some of the road corners between the Leonard's driveway and the old school	
EP to follow-up with SC re; TV reception interference	Completed
EP to follow-up with BC re; program eligibility	Completed
BJCE to develop a TV Channel User Manual for the TV Reception Program recipients	Completed
BJCE to arrange Biala grant writing workshop prior to CEF applications opening	
BJCE to provide updated high level Biala program to CCC members (ongoing)	Completed
NC to respond to Peter Gordon's email	Completed
NC to circulate NWFC presentation and contact details to members	2019 Annual Report can be read and downloaded here .
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	Completed



Action Item	Update
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.	Completed
TM to confirm how many aviation lights are installed on each turbine.	Completed
PC to request USLC to support the community's request to have the lights turned off.	Completed
NC to circulate the VPA to members.	Completed
TM to circulate TV Program map to members when available.	Completed
EP to update member list on website	Completed
NC to contact inactive members to seek clarification if they would still like to be a member of the CCC.	Completed