

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 19**

Date/Time:	Thursday 25 th November 2021
Location:	Bannister Community Hall, Bannister
Attendees:	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Ian Lawrence (IL), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Jochen Rasmussen (JR), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Elizabeth Picker (EP, (BJCE), Community Liaison Officer Andy Wang (AW), (Goldwind), Contractor
Apologies:	Vince Heffernan (JH), Committee Member Jenifer Heffernan (JH), Committee Member George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member Kathy Cosgrove (KC), Committee Member
Observers:	N/A

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

<p>1. Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC welcomed the members to the 19th CCC meeting • NC introduced and welcomed IL and JR from BJCE Australia • NC introduced AW from Goldwind • Apologies from PC, KC, JH and VH noted • NC detailed correspondence received as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Letter from resident re; Biala Wind Farm Landscaping Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NC received an email from a resident who applied for the BWF Landscaping Program but did not meet the eligibility criteria requirements as Development Approval was not granted until two years after the wind farm’s approval ▪ Development applications are required to have been lodged prior to April 2017 for the residence to be eligible for the Landscaping Program. ▪ Following questions about the residence and visual impact from SL and PH, IL explained that the Program runs until 2024, that another application had been turned down for the same reason and that a precedent could not be set so early in the Program. IL confirmed only one of the 29 applicants has applied for visual mitigation (vegetation screening). The other 28 applied for the payment option. ▪ PH asked if the visual mitigation is part of BWF Development Approval. IL confirmed it’s a condition of consent. ▪ General discussion followed about the program. ○ Letter from Minister Rob Stokes MP re; Aviation lights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NC said it’s an excellent outcome that the lights have been switched off.
<p>2. Code of Conduct and Agreement</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: N/A
3. CCC Meeting Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Minutes for the 18th meeting were agreed out of session and are on the website.
4. Complaints
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific complaints were not discussed. The complaints register can be found here.
5. General Discussion Turbine commissioning update – Andy Wang, Goldwind Australia (GWA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AW confirmed the individual turbine commissioning testing is now complete and explained in detail the process being followed, under the Australian Energy Market Operator’s (AEMO) direction, to complete commissioning of the wind farm.• AW explained that testing is conducted in a number of stages. During testing, mismatches were identified between the simulation and field testing. GWA redeveloped the model and was required to re-run the simulation to demonstrate there was no impact to network security.• AW also explained that BWF commissioning is made more complex as the connection point is shared with Gullen Range Wind Farm, requiring additional studies which are not required on most wind farms.• This involved a software update at GRWF in line with the BWF commissioning.• AW confirmed that AEMO had granted permission to progress to hold point 2, meaning testing will be carried out on 19 operating turbines.• AW said BWF needs to be generating at least 50MW for testing purposes, which is dependent on weather conditions. The testing period is typically 1-2 weeks, weather permitting, with test reports submitted for AEMO’s consideration.• The next stage is 3A which is 25 turbines followed by 3B which is all 31 turbines.• AW said BWF will likely be fully operational by February 2022.• In responses to questions from PH and NC, AW confirmed that the upgrade at GRWF was due to the standard required to connect BWF and that AEMO needs to know the impact of any new form of generation on the existing network.• NC thanked AW for his time and commissioning update. AW left the meeting. Biala Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IL confirmed four applications were received for the 2021/22 BWF CEF.<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Grabben Gullen Hall2. Gunning Landcare3. Dalton Skate Park4. Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre• IL explained that in the first three years of the fund, priority is given to projects within a 5km radius of the wind farm. IL provided additional detail about the approved Grabben Gullen Hall application including that the application was endorsed by the Grabben Gullen Progress Association, RFS brigade and Hall Committee.• PC said that the Crookwell Neighbourhood Centre footpath issue is a genuine cause.• Discussion followed about the scale and nature of the projects being considered• PH noted that he is a member of the committee assessing applications and observed that the fund represents a windfall for the community, noting that the fund could be built up

over time to enable larger projects to be supported

- IL said he was comfortable with members of the Fund committee providing advice to potential applicants about how to structure applications and would be happy to talk to potential applicants if the CCC members received enquiries.
- EP added BJCE has hosted external grant writing workshops. However, this year's workshops were impacted by COVID-19 and only one community group attended the virtual workshop.
- PH expressed, *"We (the community) need to encourage bigger projects."*
- IL said that the date for the next round of applications would be set by Upper Lachlan Shire, but would likely be March-April 2022, and committed to informing the community as soon as possible. **- ACTION ITEM**

Biala Wind Farm TV Reception Program

- IL explained the Program is ongoing. BWF has received 43 applications to date.
- Installation works slowed down due to COVID-19 lockdowns, but the TV technicians have been re-engaged.
- IL confirmed the TV program would continue to be promoted in project newsletters and online. **- ACTION ITEM**
- PH asked who was carrying out the work. IL confirmed BWF appointed Hudson Pratley as the primary contractor. The committee expressed their admiration for Hudson's work. EP and IL affirmed that this was borne out by feedback received from residents of properties where work had been completed.
- SL asked whether BJCE had investigated the cost of a new TV re-transmitter. IL explained BJCE communicated with the company who installed the Taralga tower. Estimated cost is around \$350,000 + ongoing maintenance.
- SL asked if this option would be reconsidered once the wind farm was fully operational. IL confirmed This was very unlikely as the TV program was ongoing and well-received.
- PH and SL asked about the work being performed. EP and IL explained that in some cases antenna needed to be reoriented to fix reception issues, which may not have been caused by the turbines and that participants in the programs were also eligible for VAST boxes.
- IL confirmed BWF pays for all work carried out under the Program

Project update

- JR confirmed the wind farm commissioning process was ongoing. In response to questions, BJCE confirmed that different turbines are used for the testing as all have been commissioned individually and can generate power.
- PH enquired about whether turbines were performing as expected. JR confirmed that they are.
- SL asked about post-construction monitoring. JR outlined the noise monitoring that will be completed within six months of the wind farm becoming fully operational and that neighbours had been contacted about hosting monitoring equipment. IL answered that monitoring would take at least six weeks, longer if needed to capture data under a full range of wind conditions
- NC asked whether power generation information could be made available, IL replied that as generation was freely available there would be no objection to updating the community with details once the wind farm was fully operational. **ACTION ITEM**

General business

- The meeting discussed other issues affecting the local area not directly related to the wind farm, including TransGrid's HumeLink project.
- The meeting also considered the frequency of meetings in future as there is a

requirement to continue the CCC throughout the wind farm's operation. As the wind farm is not fully operational it was agreed to continue meeting at the same frequency into 2022

6. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting: Thursday, 17th March 2022

Location: Grabben Gullen Hall

Meeting closed: 7.30pm

*Consolidated action item list on the next page.



Consolidated Action Items

Action Item	Update
Update committee and community when 2022/23 CEF is announced	
Promote TV Reception Program in the future	
BJCE to confirm if the ULSC would like a 100km speed sign installed along Range Road leaving Grabben Gullen	
Update community on energy generation once publicly available	
BJCE to investigate the possible corrugating on some of the road corners between the Leonard's driveway and the old school	
BJCE to provide a program update at future meetings	
IL to follow-up and confirm when the tree stump will be removed	
IL to investigate the average cost to install and maintain a transmitter tower	Completed
TM to confirm if the aviation lights change colour	Completed
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	Completed
BJCE to provide updated high level Biala program to CCC members (ongoing)	Completed
NC to respond to Peter Gordon's email	Completed



Action Item	Update
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
PC to flag the aviation lights at the upcoming Council meeting	Completed
BJCE to confirm the aviation light operation timings	Completed
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