

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 20**

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| Date/Time: | Thursday 19 th May 2022 |
| Location: | Grabben Gullen Community Hall, Grabben Gullen |
| Attendees: | Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Michael McNally (MM), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Elizabeth Picker (EP), (BJCE), Community Liaison Officer |
| Apologies: | Vince Heffernan (JH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Kathy Cosgrove (KC), Committee Member Jenifer Heffernan (JH), Committee Member George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member Ian Lawrence (IL), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative |

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

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| 1. Welcome and Introduction |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC welcomed everyone to the 20th CCC meeting • Apologies noted • NC introduced MM • MM explained his role based out of the Biala office to act as first point of contact for landowners and contractors and to provide an on-site presence to manage the project’s compliance with approval requirements • NC detailed correspondence received as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NC acknowledged the numerous email exchanges to change meeting dates due to COVID-19. ○ The Department of Planning of Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) is conducting a review of the CCC guidelines and has mooted some amendments. NC confirmed he circulated this out of session to Community members. NC explained the changes to the CCC guidelines and indicated the committee would be kept up-to-date with changes as the review progressed. ○ PC informed the Committee he is happy to continue as the Upper Lachlan Shire Council (ULSC) representative. PC explained Councillor Sue Reynolds has requested to join the committee. PC reported he had explained the CCC Terms of Reference and State Government regulations to Cr Reynolds and she acknowledged them. Cr Reynolds would like to attend as an observer and is now an alternate for PC. NC said he had not received any correspondence about this. PC explained it should have been sent from ULSC six weeks ago. NC agreed Cr Reynolds can act as an alternate for PC. – ACTION ITEM: PC to follow-up as to why the letter was not sent to NC and resend it. |

2. Code of Conduct and Agreement

- Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: PH remains an involved landowner

3. CCC Meeting Minutes

- The Minutes for the 19th meeting were agreed out of session and are on the website.

4. Complaints

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

5. General Discussion

Project update – Commissioning progress

- MM provided the following update:
 - All 31 turbines are now operating as testing continues.
 - MM said 40% of testing complete for the final hold point. Possibility that testing will be completed in September to gauge effects on the grid during warmer weather. Reports to be submitted to AEMO for review and approval before the project is fully operational.
 - In response to questions, MM confirmed that the turbines were currently supplying energy to the grid but that demand changes in warmer conditions. As the network connection point for Biala Wind Farm is shared with Gullen Range Wind Farm and Gullen Solar Farm, AEMO is keen to see no ill effects on transmission.
 - In response to additional questions MM explained that operations of some of the projects could be restricted by AEMO.
 - The meeting discussed the merits of using battery storage to mitigate potential issues with frequency control
 - The meeting discussed the roles of AEMO and TransGrid in the commissioning process and progress of the HumeLink project, which is not related to Biala Wind Farm

Other works update

- MM confirmed that most of the civil engineering work on the project is complete and that operations and maintenance contractors had completed the 500-hour services

Community Enhancement Fund (CEF)

- The committee discussed the Community Enhancement Fund, which opened last year
- NC asked how the project was able to have the fund when the project is not yet operational. EP explained the project paid the funds in advance to allow the fund to commence in 2021. CCC members commended the project on providing funds earlier to allow community groups to apply this year.
- EP explained it's the project's recommendation to have the Biala CEF open after the Gullen Range Wind Farm CEF to allow unsuccessful applicants to improve their applications and try again.

Landscaping Program and TV Reception Program

- EP provided a program overview.
- There have been 53 applications received for the TV Reception Program. EP explained

that applications had slowed over recent months program has slowed down but technician Hudson Pratley continued to visit residents who enquired. PH acknowledged the good work Hudson does in the local area.

- PH asked about neighbours purchasing VAST boxes without being aware of the Program. EP explained two applicants have asked about reimbursements but they must meet the reimbursement criteria e.g.; VAST box can't be several years old and must have a valid receipt etc.
- There have been 29 applications received for the Landscaping Program. Only two had opted for option one which is tree planting. The others all opted for a direct payment.
- NC asked if the project is still in contact with the neighbour who emailed him about the visual mitigation. EP confirmed that contact has been ongoing since the previous CCC meeting.

Mobile reception

- The meeting discussed mobile phone reception in the area. MM confirmed that a booster has been installed at the Biala O&M building
- General discussion about the historical mobile phone booster issues and the significant cost it would involve to install one for the community.

6. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting: Thursday, 18th of August 2022

Location: Grabben Gullen Hall

Meeting closed: 6.30pm