

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 22**

Date/Time:	Tuesday 18 April 2023
Location:	Grabben Gullen Community Hall, Grabben Gullen
Attendees:	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Jochen Rasmussen (JR), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Elizabeth Picker (EP), (BJCE), Community Liaison Officer Paul Culhane (PC), Upper Lachlan Shire Council Representative
Apologies:	Vince Heffernan (VH), Committee Member Kathy Cosgrove (KC), Committee Member Jenifer Heffernan (JH), Committee Member George Shepherd (GS), Committee Member

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC welcomed everyone to the 22nd CCC meeting • Apologies from KC, JH, VH and GS noted
2. Code of Conduct and Agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of pecuniary or other interests: None.
3. CCC Meeting Minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minutes for the 21st meeting were agreed out of session and are on the website.
4. Correspondence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
5. General Discussion
<p>Project update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biala Wind Farm has been operational since November 2022. ○ JR explained that as part of the Biala Wind Farm grid compliance testing, testing at Gullen Range Wind Farm, is still being conducted. Likely to continue until September 2023. ○ There was general discussion about requirements and what is involved in the testing process. <p>Operational noise testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JR confirmed turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Australia (GWA) is responsible for

noise testing. GWA engaged Marshall Day Acoustics to install the testing equipment at 9 locations in mid-February. The equipment was decommissioned in early April. The data will now be analysed and compare current noise levels to the noise levels in the Conditions of Consent. A report will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE).

Bird and Bat Monitoring

- JR confirmed Biala Wind Farm will have completed one year of testing by the end of April 2023. A report will then be written and submitted to the DPIE. Up to the date of the meeting, 49 common bird strikes and 29 bat strikes have been reported, with approximately two weeks remaining until the end of the reporting period. There is no requirement for the wind farm to inform the DPIE about these common bird strikes, other than in the annual report which will be prepared once the reporting period has finished at the end of April.
- JR explained the wind farm has not yet heard back from the Sydney Zoo about the Powerful Owl carcass found approximately 360 metres from the closest turbine.
- There was general discussion about the accuracy of carcass searching, given that many carcasses would be taken by scavengers such as foxes before they would be detected in a search. Further information (not presented in the meeting) has been provided in the bullet below:
 - The bird and bat management plan includes a process for undertaking scavenger trials. Scavenger trials are designed to ascertain the rate at which scavengers remove carcasses from underneath the turbines. The result is used to develop a correction factor to account for the number of bird and bat carcasses that may potentially be removed by scavengers, before searchers are able to find them during any given monthly search. This is done by placing a carcass in the search area, and then an observer comes back regularly to check on whether the carcass has been scavenged. A motion detecting camera is used to record any scavenging activity in detail. The carcass is left for 30 days. If it remains on day 30, it is recorded as not scavenged.

Community Enhancement Fund (CEF)

- EP explained the 2022/23 CEF closed in November 2022 but successful applicants haven't yet been announced. Biala Wind Farm is working with Upper Lachlan Shire Council to progress this as quick as possible.

Landscaping Program

- EP confirmed the Landscaping Program is still open. There have been 30 applications submitted to date.

TV Reception Program

- EP confirmed the TV Reception Program is still accepting applications. It is set to close in June 2023. There have been over 65 applications submitted to date.

Sponsorships and Donations

- EP confirmed Biala Wind Farm renewed their Crookwell Devils' sponsorship and recently sponsored the Gullen Triple Classics Bowling Tournament in Goulburn. The wind farm team was also at the Crookwell Show in February, raising funds for the local RFS groups. The company added another dollar for every dollar raised through a gold coin donation for children's face painting.

Community Information Plan

- EP confirmed the Community Information Plan is now publicly available on the project’s website. The Plan will be reviewed annually and a progress update will be presented to the CCC every year.
- Gullen Range Wind and Solar Farm tours have restarted with the first tour occurring today, 18th April.

General

- NC would like a report on the project’s electricity consumption and generation and how many homes the project has powered either per month or per quarter. **ACTION ITEM.**
- CCC members have been offered a tour of the wind farm in the Spring, when there are more hours of daylight. **ACTION ITEM**

6. Complaints

- There have been no new complaints since the last CCC meeting.
- The March complaints register can be found [here](#).

7. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting: 14th November 2023

Location: Grabben Gullen Hall

Meeting closed: 5.30pm

***Consolidated action item list on the next page.**



Consolidated Action Items

Action Item	Update
EP and JR to coordinate a site tour for CCC members.	
JR to provide a report on Biala Wind Farm's consumption and number of houses powered on average last quarter.	
JR to provide a report on Biala Wind Farm's consumption and number of houses powered at each meeting in future.	
PC to follow-up as to why the letter for Susan Reynolds to be a Council alternate was not sent to NC. PC to resend it.	Outstanding
TM to confirm if the aviation lights change colour	Completed
BJCE to investigate the possible corrugating on some of the road corners between the Leonard's driveway and the old school	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	
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



Action Item	Update
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
BJCE to confirm if the ULSC would like a 100km speed sign installed along Range Road leaving Grabben Gullen	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