

**BIALA WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 24**

Date/Time:	Tuesday 6 March 2024
Location:	Grabben Gullen Community Hall, Grabben Gullen
Attendees:	Nic Carmody (NC), Chairperson Paul Hewitt (PH), Committee Member Shane Laverty (SL), Committee Member Lachlan Lamberton (LL), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Karl Schubert (KS), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Erin Fletcher (EF), (BJCE), Owner’s Representative Andrew Sinclair (AS), (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 Jennifer 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 24th CCC meeting • Apologies from KC • NC welcomed BJCE’s new staff members – EF and AS.
2. Code of Conduct and Agreement
<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 23rd 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> <p>LL provided the following update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BJEI, (BWF parent company) has expanded its team with two new team members. Andrew Sinclair (AS) will be working as a Site Manager across Gullen Range Wind Farm (GRWF), Gullen Solar Farm (GSF) and Biala Wind Farm (BWF). Erin Fletcher (EF) has joined the corporate team as a Community Relations Manager.

- Bird and bat monitoring is ongoing onsite.
- Regular maintenance and service of the turbines is ongoing.
- HV servicing has been conducted recently. LL noted the community may have noticed GRWF turbines have not been spinning recently.
- **Action item response:** BWF has generated a total of 87.5 terawatt hours, powering 39,000 homes.
 - NC asked if this is on target with predicted outputs. KS said, “You can’t compare what was originally forecast to what is being produced due to changes in environmental factors, but the current yearly target is probably a little under what we would have hoped to see, but the performance is still good.”
- NC asked if the roadworks are all complete with Upper Lachlan Shire Council.
 - LL said, “*There are no outstanding council works, they have all been completed.*”
- EF will be replacing KS on the CCC as BJCE’s Community Relations Manager.

General business

- Following on from the previous CCC, members were contacted about potential dates for a community workshop to discuss the 2023/24 BWF Community Fund. The proposed date is Sunday 28th April from mid-morning. BWF has committed to providing a BBQ for attendees. KS explained the purpose of the workshop will be to provide a brief overview of the BWF Community Fund, what can/cannot be funded, and try to get a sense of how the amount available could be used. This could potentially be put towards a multi-year funded project. KS went on to say there could be a general lack of understanding about how multi-year funding works.
- PH and SL agree Sunday 28th is a suitable day for the workshop. PH said, “*families are who we should try and get to attend... hopefully a Sunday is better due to children’s sporting games typically occurring on Saturdays.*”
- General discussion about the issue of getting local residents to attend. Further discussion followed about what the workshop could involve.
- NC suggested if local residents are unable to attend, they could email or call the wind farm to discuss what they’d like to see and this could be added to the workshop discussions.
- The 2024/25 funding round for BWF will likely open in October.
- NC asked who is responsible for the funds. KS confirmed the USLC is responsible, but it’s administered by a S355 Committee. General discussion about the S355 committee and how it works. NC said, “*People originally were concerned the money would go to Council and not the community.*” Discussion ensued that the funds could also be given to a community group that misuses the money.
- PH discussed his experience of being on the S355 committee.
- PH raised his concerns that if there are no entities who enjoy working together, the larger scale multi-year projects won’t work.
- NC asked if the Community Fund funding can be used to contribute to a loan. KS explained he would need to review the terms and conditions of the fund. – **ACTION ITEM**
- Discussions about the benefits of delivering short-term projects over a long-term project and how small projects are often easier to deliver.
- NC mentioned that the Chair of the GRWF CCC intends to hold a co-CCC member meeting later this month to discuss ways the projects and community can more effectively work together to deliver larger projects for the region. The collective funding of all of the Community Funds in the region would be around \$700,000 a year.

CCC member tour

- NC proposed every CCC member can have a personal tour of the Biala project site. This is a great opportunity to fully understand the project in its entirety. Committee in agreement. NC advised that he would circulate appropriate contacts for individuals to arrange a tour if they wished.

Community Enhancement Fund (CEF)

- EP explained the 2023/24 funding round applications are still under review.
- Gullen Range Wind Farm’s Community Fund will open its applications this week with around \$90,000 available for community groups.

Landscaping Program

- EP explained BWF received one more application since the previous CCC meeting and a mailout will be conducted urging residences to apply before the program ends later this year in August.

TV Reception Program

- EP explained the TV Reception Program has been extended until 30 June 2024 and BWF will conduct a mailout to local residences urging them to apply. General discussion followed about the program.

Sponsorships and Donations

- EP explained GRWF/BWF attended the Crookwell Show last month and raised funds for Crookwell/Grabben Gullen’s *The Man Walk*.
- AS recently attended the Goulburn Rose Tournament. We are a major sponsor of the tournament
- BWF has renewed its sponsorship with the Crookwell Devils for the 2024 season.

Community engagement

- EF and LL explained they hosted International delegates at Gullen Range Wind Farm yesterday (Monday 5 March 2024). The team onsite provided a detailed introduction to the construction and operation of a wind farm, as well as an overview of the Australian energy market.
- EP explained GRWSF/BWF will attend a STEM event at Trinity Catholic College in Goulburn later in the year. KS discussed BJCE’s plans for STEM partnerships in the future. PH agreed STEM is a great initiative. PH said, *“it’s complementary and a really good thing to support.”*
- The next community tour will be in June. EP explained attendance has bounced back to waitlist capacity since suspending the tours for 3-years during COVID, which is great to see.

6. Complaints

- The February complaints register can be found [here](#).

7. Next Steps and Close

Next meeting: Tuesday 24th September 2024

Location: Grabben Gullen Hall

Meeting closed: 6pm



*Consolidated action item list on the next page.

Consolidated Action Items

Action Item	Update
KS investigate if Community Fund funding can be used to contribute to a loan	
EP and LL to coordinate a site tour for CCC members.	Ongoing
LL to provide a report on Biala Wind Farm's consumption and number of houses powered on average last quarter.	Completed
LL to provide a report on Biala Wind Farm's consumption and number of houses powered at each meeting in future.	Ongoing
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	Completed
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	Completed



Action Item	Update
Enhancement Fund	
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