



# BANGO WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

**Minutes of meeting held at the Club House Hotel,  
Yass on Tuesday 27 June 2023**

## **Attendees:**

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Lyn Diskon (LD)	Squadron Energy (Community Engagement Co-Ordinator)
Brad Jachmann (BJ)	Squadron Energy (Site Manager - Operations)
Cr John Piper (JP)	Hilltops Council delegate
Cr Jim Abbey (JAb)	Yass Valley Council delegate
Terry Sellwood (TS)	Community Representative
Thomas McGrath (TM)	Community Representative (Host Landholder)

## **Apologies:**

Jayne Apps	Boorowa District Landscape Guardians
Jack Walker	Yass Valley Business Chamber delegate
Geoff Frost	Community representative
Jonathan Post	Squadron Energy

***Meeting commenced at 9.11 am.***

## **Welcome and Introductions**

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the Bango Wind Farm (BWF) Community Consultative Committee being held at the Club House Hotel, Yass.

## **Apologies**

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As listed above. Jonathan Post has advised that following the transition from construction to operational, he will no longer be a member of this CCC. BJ will be the company's representative.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

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The Ngunnawal people were acknowledged as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land that the Bango Wind Farm is located on. Respect was paid to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging.

## **Declaration of Interest**

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The Chair declared her interest as Independent Chairperson of the BWF CCC, approved by the Department of Planning and Environment, and engaged by Squadron Energy to chair the meeting.

No changes to previous declarations by members.

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## Business Arising from Previous Minutes

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Minutes of CCC held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, were finalised and emailed to members on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

## Action Items from Previous Meeting

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Item	Issue	Responsibility
1	MM to keep the CCC informed of any further developments with CASA on this matter, should they arise. BJ advised that there is an outage on site at the moment and only 16 turbines are operational, of which 8 are illuminating.	BJ Ongoing

No other business arising.

## Correspondence Report

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### Correspondence as sent out with the meeting notice on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with one additional item:

- 7/12/22– Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 14/12/22 - Email to members with the finalised minutes and presentation.
- 13/2/23 – Email to members with the February 2023 project newsletter.
- 13/2/23 – Email from LD advising of the merger between CWP Renewables and Squadron Energy.
- 19/5/23 – Email to members with the Save the Date, meeting notice & agenda for this CCC.
- 14/6/23 – Email to members with confirmation of the venue for this CCC.
- 26/6/23 - Email to members with reminder for this meeting.

**Accepted.**

## Project Update – Squadron Energy

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BJ presented the project update.

- All turbines have been constructed and approved to run by Transgrid and AEMO.
- All have been tested and wrapped up.
- On 8/5/23 a delivery was made to the substation, located in the middle of the wind farm off Tangmangaroo Rd. Transgrid told the wind farm to turn off turbines 1-21 and off-load, affecting the western cluster. Investigations and HV testing of the substation found an issue that Transgrid has resolved. However, final HV testing works are outstanding on the repairs. It is hoped to have the turbines on line by next Friday.
- The North-Eastern Cluster feeds the 973 line, so for Transgrid to carry out the work, SE had to turn off an additional 9 turbines, leaving only 16 on line.
- JP asked what had happened? BJ advised that there was no issue with the transformer and believes that the sound heard by the person at the time of the delivery was consistent with an electrical arc sound.
- TS enquired about the lines capacity to accept power without causing problems. BJ confirmed that all testing has confirmed the ability to accept 100% output and that testing has been wrapped up with final un-constrained approval granted by Transgrid & AEMO.
- JP asked whether the wind turbines have a maximum operating wind speed. BJ advised that there is a maximum operating wind speed and it's roughly 90kph (25m/s) over a 10min average or gusts of 108kph (30m/s).

- JAb enquired about ongoing maintenance, monitoring and inspections. BJ advised that the maintenance team for AEG comprises of 6 teams of 2-3 people. Blade repairs and retrofixing/annual maintenance is ongoing.
- TM asked if maintenance was on a 12 monthly schedule. BJ confirmed yes, however, wind turbine maintenance can be performed based on operating hours or based on an odometer. Bango's maintenance is being performed in a time based manner.
- JAb enquired how many staff were on site? BJ advised that the current head count is 20-30 staff as they still transition from construction to operations. Looking at having 10 long term staff on site that live locally or are encouraged to relocate.
- TM enquired whether pre-summer testing would occur prior to the bush fire season. BJ stated that there are 46 machines that are tested over 52 weeks, so basically one per week when you include holidays, etc. There is a fire detection system in the turbines and part of the maintenance includes function testing. All these will be checked prior to summer.
- JAb asked whether the turbines are susceptible to fires – how robust are they – would they survive a wild fire? LD advised that there is a large cleared area around each of the turbines, acting as a buffer. Detectors in the turbines would pick up any smoke and alert the system. With the towers being constructed from steel, they are not very combustible and fire would not get to the blades because of the height off the ground.
- TS asked if BWF had any onsite firefighting appliances. BJ stated that there are water carts on site that could assist firefighting efforts by the trained RFS brigade. LD reiterated that BWF staff and contractors are not trained to fight fires and that the safety of employees was paramount. Each turbine has emergency contact information contained on the base and top to assist staff in identifying locations. TM confirmed that even landowners can't fight fires with own equipment. Best left to the experts.
- JAb commented on recent seismic activity in the area and asked whether this movement would affect the turbines. BJ advised that the structures are designed to handle movement and vibration. JAb asked if there is a cut-off switch in these incidences. BJ confirmed that the turbine will stop in the event movement or vibration exceeds the safe operating limit. It will do this by stopping the turbine and pitching the blades out.

### **Internal Staff Video**

BJ showed attendees a video that had been prepared as a staff training exercise, which documented "a day in the life of the Bango Wind Farm". *(Not for public distribution.)*

JAb asked if Squadron Energy (SE) also developed solar farms. BJ responded, yes, they are expanding into that area now. SE will be focusing on more comprehensive renewables, such as hydrogen, gas, hybrids, solar, etc.

JAb enquired how many solar panels would be equal to one wind turbine (output). BJ took on notice.

**Action.** JAb informed the CCC of a proposed Solar Farm near the town of Yass.

### **LD showed members a presentation of the community engagement, sponsorship, etc provided to the community during her work as Community Engagement Officer with the Bango Wind Farm.**

As this is LD's last meeting prior to retirement, LA acknowledged LD for her contribution in the community engagement process for this CCC and her connection with the community, being an advocate for sponsorship and support in local schools, volunteer groups and support services. LA thanked LD for her efforts.

## General Business

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- TM – on behalf of the landholders – thanked LD for organising their meetings and her work in establishing the Community Enhancement Fund.
- TM enquired who were appointed as community representatives on the CEF? BJ advised Barbara Manion and Angus Mitchell.
- TM asked if SE could include Boorowa on the project website as the location. At the moment it states near Yass. **Action.**
- TM stated landholders' disappointment in not being invited to the official opening of the Wind Farm by Dr Andrew Forrest. BJ stated that it had been kept quiet with only media attending.
- TS raised the following question: "There has been some talk around the town that there is a problem with the concrete in some of the tower footings and that this may lead to the need to dismantle and rebuild some machines. Is this so and, if the answer is yes to rebuilding, what will be the implications regarding removal of failed bases and ensuing site rehabilitation?  
RESPONSE: There hasn't been any problems with the foundations identified so no dismantling will occur.
- TS asked about the monitoring of the bird strikes. BJ advised that monthly monitoring occurs in accordance with the Bat & Bird Management Plan. Strikes recorded have been very minimal with no Superb Parrots being impacted. (See *Independent Environmental Audit Link below for more details.*) TM commented that birds don't fly that high as the blades are above the tree canopy.
- JP commented that the Superb Parrots are now off the Endangered List.

**Link to Independent Environmental Audit:** [Bango Wind Farm \(spicyweb.net.au\)](http://Bango Wind Farm (spicyweb.net.au))

## Next Meeting

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📅 Tuesday, 21 November 2023 at 11am on site at Boorowa, followed by BBQ lunch.

LA advised that an extra-ordinary meeting may always be held if something arises. Agreed.

**Meeting closed at 10.20am with LA thanking all attendees for their contribution.**

## Action Items

Item	Issue	Responsibility
1	How many solar panels equal one turbine	BJ
2	Include Boorowa in the location of the project on its website	LD