

MINUTES OF CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

Tuesday 14 February 2023 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul
(10.05 am)

Attendees

Attendees	Initials	Position
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Owain Rowland-Jones	ORJ	Community Member
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community member
Mike McGuire	MM	CWP Renewables

Observers: None

Apologies: Alan Cattermole	AC	Bathurst Regional Council
Robert Taylor	RT	Mayor, Bathurst Council
Ben Deer	BD	CWP Renewables
Paul Cavalier	PC	Mid-Western Council

Item	Details and Actions
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	<i>Meeting opened at 10.05am.</i> David Johnson welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received.
2.0 Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair acknowledged the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.
3.0 Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
4.0 Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no formal correspondence to record

5.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the last meeting of the CCC was held on 6 September 2022. There were no comments made regarding the previous minutes. <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was noted that the noise monitoring results from prior to the last meeting were on the website, and the more recent ones are with the Department (DPE), and those results should be available on the website very soon. MM to check and follow up. MP noted that he understands some landowners are receiving noise when they were previously told they would not. 2. CWP contacted the Rylstone & District Environmental Society to offer a site visit and inspection, but the offer has not been taken up yet.
6.0 Proponent's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All construction and commissioning works are now complete and official commencement following commissioning was on 7 April 2022; MM noted that one of the turbines has been stopped due to lightning damage, and is still awaiting repair to blade damage; Bird and bat strike monitoring by consultants is continuing as required – annually for the first 2 years, then to be reviewed by DPE based on the results; Year 2 report due Aug 2023; data is available on the website; Some brake noise is being rectified on one or two turbines (relates to directional turning, not blades); repairs are by GE under the maintenance contract; the second annual maintenance will be in April. No recent complaints received; last one was from Heather George on Crudine Rd, relating to noise.
7.0 Other Agenda Items	None

8.0 General Business

- MM advised that CWP has been acquired by Squadron Energy (Australian owned, by Andrew & Nicola Forest) and will be officially re-branded in March;
- ORJ asked what is the total downtime caused by breakdowns & repairs ? MM replied only 1 or 2% overall;
- MP asked what is being done about weed control on offset blocks – MM replied that CWP have taken on management of the offset land and have been given a list of actions to undertake in the next year, including weed management, track maintenance, etc.
- MP and ORJ asked about what social & community funding is currently happening ? MM noted that the major part is through the VPA's (voluntary planning agreements) between the Company and the two Councils. It comprises approx. \$120,000 to MW Council and \$40,000 to Bathurst, per annum. Actual details of how the funding is allocated are determined by the Councils, not CWP. **ACTION ITEM 1** – DJ to request details of funding expenditure by the two Councils, from the VPA monies.
- CWP also separately provides some sponsorship monies to community and sporting groups etc.
- ORJ asked if there are likely to be any changes in management from the new ownership by Squadron Energy – MM replied that there are no changes expected to the day to day management of the wind farm;
- ORJ noted recent reports of problems with turbines due to the increase in size of towers and blades ? It apparently applies to both GE and Vestas company turbines. MM said the increase in size means that more maintenance is required, particularly relating to bearing pressures.
- MM also noted that at the end of the life of the turbines, the company will need to determine whether they are to be refurbished and retained or dismantled and removed.
- ORJ asked if the recent summer heavy rains have led to further impacts on roads and tracks etc ? MM – only minor damage and repairs required.
- ORJ noted that vegetation issues are continuing – Sefton Bush (or Bidy Bush) is spreading rapidly,

	<p>particularly on land with absentee owners, like 'Greenhills'. Some host owners who receive payments for the turbines on their properties are not spending the monies they receive on things like weed control. MM noted that the Company is required control weeds in a 50m radius of any disturbed land (around turbines, tracks etc), however it is understood that Sefton Bush is a native, not a weed. MP - Slashing is beneficial in reducing but not eliminating Sefton Bush.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ORJ – some areas containing the endangered 'Purple Pea' and an Acacia along Aarons Pass Road were to be protected (some were removed and transplanted by CWP and had a good success rate of around 50-60%). ORJ asked about the monitoring and assessment – monitoring done during first year of translocation, now completed. The Purple Pea was within Transgrid's trans line footprint 'no-go zones' and no individuals were harmed. • ACTION ITEM 2 – MM to advise where the results of the monitoring and assessment of the endangered species (as required under the EPBC Act) can be found – ie which website.
10.0 Next Meeting	<p>The date for the next meeting was selected as <u>Tuesday 15 August 2023, at 10 am</u>, unless there is a good reason to change that.</p>

Meeting closed at 10.59am

DJ thanked all present for their attendance.

Action Items:

Item	Issue	Action By:
1	What information can be provided by the two Councils about the community funding by CWP through the VPA arrangements ?	DJ
2	Where are the results of the endangered species monitoring and assessment available to CCC members and the public ?	MM

David Johnson
Independent Chair

Tuesday 15 August 2023 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul
(10.15 am)

Attendees	Initials	Position
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community Member
Mike McGuire	MM	CWP Renewables

Observers: None

Apologies:	Alan Cattermole	AC	Bathurst Regional Council
	Robert Taylor	RT	Mayor, Bathurst Council
	Ben Deer	BD	CWP Renewables
	Owain R-Jones	ORJ	Community Member

Item	Details and Actions
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	<i>Meeting opened at 10.15am.</i> David Johnson welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received.
2.0 Acknowledgement of Country	The Chair acknowledged the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and paid respects to their elders past, present and emerging.
3.0 Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
4.0 Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted email correspondence from Mid-Western Council on 21/4/23 and Bathurst Council on 26/4/23 relating to the allocation of VPA funding monies, in reply to the Chair's emails of 26/3/23 requesting the information. The emails were forwarded to CCC members on 25/5/23. The Chair also noted correspondence from the DPE re the newly released <i>CCC Guideline</i>, and details of changes required to the operation of CCCs, which were outlined.

5.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the last meeting of the CCC was held on 14 February 2023. There were no comments made regarding the previous minutes; <p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DJ noted that he had received the information on VPA funding allocations from both Bathurst & Mid Western Councils, and that it was circulated to all CCC members in May. 2. MM confirmed that the results of environmental monitoring undertaken are provided on the project website.
6.0 Proponent's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MM reported that CWP has now been taken over by Squadron Energy and is now 100% Australian owned; apart from the re-branding and name change, operations and staffing continue as previously; MM noted that one or two turbines have been repaired in recent months due to lightning damage to the blades; The second annual maintenance event was carried out recently; it was noted that bearing issues are more prevalent generally on the larger turbines now being installed. One complaint was received from a landowner in the last few months, relating to noise from a turbine; There have been no visits to site from regulatory authorities in the last few months.
7.0 Other Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buzz (RS) emailed CCC members and Mid-Western Council on 30 July to suggest that some of the Crudine Ridge W/F VPA funds be used for an 'Imagination Library' for 0-5 year olds. He provided a link to the programme, which has been most successful in Tamworth - https://imaginationlibrary.com/au/. Members liked the suggestion and the chair (DJ) undertook to follow up M-W Council to advise of the CCC's support. MM reported that senior management from Squadron are planning to meet with Council to discuss the allocation of VPA funds. The chair noted that the new <i>CCC Guideline</i> requires all CCCs to operate in accordance with it during a transition period of 6 months. He advised that the changes are relatively minor but

	he (DJ) will draft a new 'Terms of Reference' for the committee and circulate to members during this period for discussion at the next CCC meeting in March 2024.
8.0 General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM noted that local residents, Karen & Mark Croake, had requested MW Council provide some funding to repair the Pyramul Hall from the wind farm's VPA funding. Council replied on 13 June 2023 to advise that at their May meeting Council confirmed that they do not support funding of community groups from VPA funds. Karen Croake then emailed Squadron Energy on 14 August to advise of Council's decision and to request that Squadron Energy consider providing some assistance with running costs and repairs, which the Hall badly needs. • The committee requested that the chair advise MW Council that the CCC requests that Council reconsider their decision, and that it was always the case that CWP wished for their contributed funds to be used to help projects etc in the local community. (ACTION ITEM 1) • Note that CWP/Squadron also separately provides some sponsorship monies to community and sporting groups etc. • MP noted that he believes current governments are closing coal-fired power stations too quickly and that this will cause an energy crisis if it continues. • It was noted that Andrew Hundy has not attended recent CCC meetings and DJ undertook to contact him re his continued membership. (ACTION ITEM 2)
10.0 Next Meeting	The date for the next meeting was selected as <u>Tuesday 12 March 2024, at 10 am</u> , unless there is a good reason to change that.

Meeting closed at 10.50am

DJ thanked all present for their attendance.

Action Items:

Item	Issue	Action By:
1.	The Chair to contact MW Council to advise that the CCC feels strongly that the wind farm VPA funds should be spent within the local area.	DJ
2.	The Chair to contact Andrew Hundy (community representative) to confirm if he wishes to continue as a CCC member.	DJ

David Johnson, Independent Chair