

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

**Tuesday 12 March 2024 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul  
(10.15 am)**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community Member
Owain Rowland-Jones	ORJ	Community Member
Mike McGuire	MM	Squadron Energy
Kath Elliott	KE	Squadron Energy
Jess Jennings	JJ	Mayor, Bathurst Regional Council
<b>Observers:</b>	Lisa Penson	Mid-Western Council
	Allan Heath	Observer (local resident)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Alan Cattermole	Bathurst Regional Council
	Ben Deer	Squadron Energy
	Des Kennedy	Mid-Western Council

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details and Actions</b>
<b>1.0 Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b><i>Meeting opened at 10.15am.</i></b> David Johnson welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received. He particularly welcomed Kath Elliott, Head of Stakeholder & Community Engagement with Squadron Energy, and Cr. Jess Jennings, Mayor of Bathurst Regional Council.
<b>2.0 Acknowledgement of Country</b>	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.
<b>3.0 Declarations of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>

<b>4.0 Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair noted further email correspondence received from Mid-Western Council on 28/11/23 relating to the allocation of VPA funding monies.</li> <li>• The Chair also noted correspondence from both Councils in January 2024, nominating new representatives for the CCC – Cr Des Kennedy for Mid-Western and Mayor Jess Jennings for Bathurst.</li> </ul>
<b>5.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the last meeting of the CCC was held on 15 August 2023. There were no comments made regarding the previous minutes;</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1. DJ noted the above-mentioned correspondence from Mid-Western Council on VPA funding allocations (dated 28/11/23), which he tabled. He had also sent an email to Mid-Western Council on 29/9/23 confirming that members of the CCC feel strongly that VPA monies should be spent in the local area, not elsewhere in the LGA.</li> <li>• 2. DJ confirmed that he had sent an email to Andrew Hundy asking if he wished to remain on the CCC, and he had replied that he did wish to continue as a member.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0 Proponent's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MM noted that weed-spraying has continued in disturbed areas, also roadworks on Crudine Rd and some internal tracks. Annual turbine maintenance program commences on 9/4/24 over about 3 months; also some blade repairs due to lightning damage</li> <li>• MM will be moving to the Uungula wind farm project, which is shortly to commence construction, later in the year</li> </ul>

## 7.0 Other Agenda Items

- VPA funding: KE reported approaches from community members re the allocation of VPA funds – referring to Mid-Western Council (MWC) area.
- DJ noted the correspondence he sent to the two Councils in 2023 and the replies from both. KE noted that MWC's letter of 28/11/23 advised that it is Council's discretion how and where funds are committed. The VPA actually notes that the money is to be spent in the land surrounding the wind farm. Squadron will write to Council to seek clarification on whether funds have been spent, and if so where they have been spent.
- MP noted that Bathurst Council spent their share in the Sofala and Wattle Flat areas.
- ORJ suggested possibly funding some tourist information, display map or similar at the public area near Aarons Pass on the Castlereagh Hwy. He also considers that some of the local history in the area could also qualify for funding in some way.
- AH noted that some improvements to the Crudine Hall could also qualify for funding.
- It was agreed by all members that the CCC should pressure MWC to allocate VPA funds to the local area. Both KE (on behalf of Squadron) and DJ (on behalf of the CCC) to write to MWC to press this point, and to ask about allocation of funds to date. (ACTION ITEM).
- Terms of Reference: DJ noted that, as required under the new CCC Guidelines, he has prepared a *Terms of Reference* for this CCC, which was circulated to members late in 2023. He received no comments, so that draft has been adopted as the final.
- DJ also reminded members that we are all required to accept and sign the new Code of Conduct forms and that he has hard copies which can be signed today

## 8.0 General Business

- ORJ asked about bird and bat monitoring; MM said this is continuing & results are available on the website; koalas are not part of the monitoring program as there is not an on-going threat.
- ORJ also asked about threatened plant species (purple pea etc); MM reported that the ecological consultants have been on site recently and the data will be available in due course;
- ORJ asked about the offset block on Hill End Rd – tracks, fencing and weed spraying, fox baiting etc.
- ORJ also noted that Bididi Bush (or Sefton Bush) is taking over the area, particularly some host properties which are not being well managed in terms of weed management. Noted that it is not a declared noxious weed, so authorities are unlikely to provide chemical for spraying and control requires good farm management; sheep will eat small plants but if the properties are unstocked, it needs to be sprayed.
- MP noted that where burnt by fire, it doesn't return quickly.
- MM noted that Squadron's responsibility is for areas around access roads and turbines etc; BS asked if it is possible for Squadron to assist landowners by providing chemical etc., or by helping educate landowners. MM said they have done that before in some cases, and could possibly contribute in some way.
- **ACTION:** Squadron to explore ways in which they could help farmers to deal with the Sefton Bush problem.
- BZ reported that some of the water tanks left after construction of the WF are not being managed or accessible for RFS to use for fire fighting as they often cannot be tapped in case of need. An example is the one at Aarons Pass on the Castlereagh Highway. The intention was that they would be made available in the event of fires.
- JJ asked about the offset property near Hill End. MM said it is called 'Glen May' and is being maintained. It comprises steep land & there is no public access.
- ORJ asked again about whether Squadron have any intention of enlarging the wind farm by adding turbines in the area between the current northern and southern parts, as was originally intended but not approved. MM and KE reported that there is no such intention or plan.
- Discussion followed on Squadron's other projects and plans in renewable energy, and constraining issues such as power connections and high voltage transmission line requirements.

<b>9.0 Next Meeting</b>	The date for the next meeting was selected as <b><u>Tuesday 3 September 2024, at 10 am</u></b> , unless there is a good reason to change that.
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**Meeting closed at 11.25am**

DJ thanked all present for their attendance.

**Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action By:</b>
1.	The Chair and Squadron to separately contact MW Council to again stress that the CCC feels strongly that the wind farm VPA funds should be spent within the local area, and to ask for details of funding allocations to date.	<b>DJ/KE</b>
2.	Squadron to explore and consider ways in which it could assist local landowners in dealing with the Sefton (or Biddi) Bush problem.	<b>MM/KE</b>

David Johnson, Independent Chair

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

**3 September 2024 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul (10.05 am)**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community Member
Owain Rowland-Jones	ORJ	Community Member
Mike McGuire	MM	Squadron Energy
Kath Elliott	KE	Squadron Energy
Kacee Milnes	KM	Squadron Energy

**Observers:** none

**Apologies:** Jess Jennings JJ Mayor, Bathurst Regional Council  
Ben Deer BD Squadron Energy  
Des Kennedy DK Mid-Western Council

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details and Actions</b>
<b>1.0 Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b><i>Meeting opened at 10.15am.</i></b> David Johnson welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received. He particularly welcomed Kacee Milnes, CRWF Operations Manager, Squadron Energy. MM is moving to the Uungula wind farm project and DJ thanked him for his support and organisation of the CCC during his time on the CRWF project.
<b>2.0 Acknowledgement of Country</b>	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.
<b>3.0 Declarations of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0 Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair noted further email correspondence between himself and Mid-Western Council in March, May &amp; August 2024 relating to the allocation of VPA funding monies.</li> </ul>

<b>5.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the last meeting of the CCC was held on 12 March 2024. There were no comments made regarding the previous minutes;</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1. DJ noted that both he and KE had contacted MW Council requesting information on VPA funding allocations, and stressing that the CCC requests funding to be targeted to the local area of the windfarm.</li> <li>• 2. On-going – remains open.</li> </ul>
<b>6.0 Proponent's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current turbine maintenance program is nearly complete, with two turbines left to be completed.</li> <li>• A major unscheduled outage due to cable damage in July led to the entire w/f being out of action for two weeks.</li> <li>• KE/KM – Squadron have been actively engaged in liaising with the community in the Rylstone, Kandos and Ilford areas. They are planning to subsidise disadvantaged children and families at Kandos Public School. BS suggested other possible avenues for assisting the Kandos community – such as the museum and high school.</li> <li>• KE – Squadron are open to suggestions of ways in which they can assist and help invigorate the local communities, such as Kandos.</li> <li>• BS - Considerable levels of disadvantage exist in the Kandos community and there are opportunities to assist in social disadvantage. BS noted that STEM subjects are not available at Kandos High School and enrolments at Kandos schools are decreasing.</li> <li>• BS reported on Mudgee tourism initiatives and the difficulties of introducing commercial benefits to the area.</li> <li>• OR-J noted the decline in rural properties in the area, due to mostly part-time landowners taking over leading to deterioration in the condition of the land. A large property in the area has just been sold for future subdivision, with four turbines.</li> <li>• Discussion proceeded on the decline of towns in the area and KE invited any suggestions as to how Squadron Energy can help invigorate the local areas.</li> </ul>

<p><b>7.0 Other Agenda Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>VPA funding</u>: KE reported approaches from community members re the allocation of VPA funds – referring to Mid-Western Council (MWC) area.</li> <li>• DJ noted the above-mentioned correspondence with MW Council in 2024, and advised that he had a phone call and email from Lisa Penson of MW Council on 28 August advising that Council had allocated \$100,000 for a new roof on the Crudine Hall from VPA funds. This information was also provided to Squadron in a letter from Council's GM on 22 May. She also noted that Council are awaiting a quote from the Pyramul Hall Committee for new amenities at the Pyramul Hall. DJ to follow this up with Karen Croake of the Pyramul community group. (ACTION ITEM).</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.0 General Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OR-J asked about the above-mentioned property of Don Price which has four turbines, and is to be sold and sub-divided. Discussion ensued on whether subdivision will be allowed or not. KM to provide an update on whether sub-division will be allowed with four turbines on the property (ACTION ITEM for next meeting).</li> <li>• It was noted that council elections are coming up in 2 weeks and new council representatives may be appointed to the committee. BS noted that MW Council does not have wards and all councillors are elected 'at large'. Most councillors are from Mudgee and Gulgong and several are running again. DJ undertook to keep in touch with the two councils re new council CCC reps.</li> <li>• DJ asked whether the weed Sticky Nightshade is a problem in this area, as it is around Orange. It is not a serious problem in this area.</li> <li>• DJ acknowledged Mick McGuire who is transferring to a different wind farm project, and thanked him for his support for this committee.</li> <li>• The idea of advertising for new CCC members was raised and suggested for action in the new year (via local papers or radio station 2KRR).</li> <li>• DJ to suggest to Andrew Hundy that he resign from the CCC as he has not attended nor apologised re the last 3 meetings.(ACTION ITEM)</li> </ul>



<b>9.0 Next Meeting</b>	The date for the next meeting was selected as <b><u>Tuesday 4 March 2025, at 10 am</u></b> , unless there is a good reason to change that.
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**Meeting closed at 11.15am**

DJ thanked all present for their attendance.

**Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action By:</b>
1.	DJ to enquire with Karen Croake of the Pyramul Hall Committee about providing a quote for provision of new amenities at the Hall, which MW Council are waiting for.	<b>DJ</b>
2.	KM to enquire and advise whether or not subdivision will be allowed on Don Price's property which has four turbines.	<b>KM</b>
3	DJ to contact Andrew Hundy (Community rep, Sofala area) to suggest he resign from the committee	<b>DJ</b>

David Johnson, Independent Chair