

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

4 March 2025 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul (10.10 am)

Attendees	Initials	Position
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community Member
Owain Rowland-Jones	ORJ	Community Member
Cr.Marcus Cornish	MC	Mid-Western Council
Kath Elliott	KE	Squadron Energy
Kacee Milnes	KM	Squadron Energy

Observers: none

Courtney Urdarov CU Squadron Energy

Apologies:

Bathurst Regional Council

Item	Details and Actions
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	<i>Meeting opened at 10.10am.</i> The Chair welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received. He particularly welcomed new member Cr Marcus Cornish and observer Courtney Urdarov from Squadron Energy.
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 further email correspondence from both Mid-Western Council and Bathurst Council in November & December 2024 advising of new Council representatives on the committee

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 3 September 2024. There were no comments made regarding the previous minutes;
6.0 Proponent's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental update (KM): recent bird & bat surveys found nothing significant; weed management – will be increasing spraying to control Sifton Bush & other weeds; • Safety issues – nothing to report; • The annual maintenance program for the turbines will commence in April, & will include some blade repairs; • Of the 37 turbines, one has had a major bearing failure and will be out of action until late 2025; the repair will require a crane and traffic management arrangements; • Community matters: More sponsorships happening including 'Max Potential' high school mentoring with businesses (Mudgee, Rylstone, Dubbo); also Hargraves RFS; • Support to Rylstone Business Chamber also commencing; and International Women's Day event in Mudgee. • MC mentioned 'Women in Law' event in Windeyer – KM said that could qualify for support from Squadron; • CU reported Squadron's sponsoring of St George-Illawarra Dragons NRL team, and visits to schools in this area by players to promote physical & mental well-being.
7.0 Other Agenda Items	None

8.0 General Business

- OR-J reported on his experience with Sifton Bush control, which is a native so does not classify as a noxious weed. His property like much of the area was suffering from being overgrown with Sifton Bush, but a significant fire two years ago burnt most of his property and removed the Sifton Bush problem. The weed remains totally under control in the areas burnt.
- KM noted that Squadron's weed control contractors are monitoring weed encroachment in the area and actively spray affected areas.
- OR-J again reported that the large number of absentee landowners is leading to less weed management in the area, and this problem will increase with more smaller block subdivisions.
- KE reported on discussions with MW Council re the spending of VPA monies – and the requirement that it be spent primarily in the areas surrounding the wind farm. She is hoping to meet very soon (13 March) with MW Council and will confirm this.
- MC said he was very focussed on helping the villages and would assist in ensuring VPA monies are directed to the local areas.
- KE noted there is a process for applying for VPA monies for grants to local community groups, and KE asks for suggestions for such funding grants in areas local to the wind farm, rather than in Mudgee etc.
- KE, KM and MC support the idea of having an event with Squadron & MW Council to discuss these issues.
- KM did note that she had spoken recently with Karen Croake of the Pyramul Sports Club re applying for support for funding for new toilets at the Pyramul Hall, so that is in process through Council.
- MC suggested a series of meetings between Squadron and representatives of local community groups to encourage applications for VPA funding grants. KM and KE agreed. Suggested one at Pyramul Hall & one at Kandos Museum.
- KE also asked BS to provide details of any worthy groups in Kandos who could qualify for a grant. There are definitely groups in Kandos who could benefit from some economic contributions.
- KE reported on the 'Renew' program which began in Newcastle and assisted artists and creative individuals & groups to utilize disused shops etc to promote their enterprises & small businesses. This could have benefits for small towns etc like Kandos which are economically depressed and empty shops etc exist.
- OR-J noted that properties like 'Glenmore' near Pyramul are likely to be sub-divided in future and what constraints then apply if they have turbines?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM noted that any lease conditions with the wind farm (Squadron) would continue to apply to any new owners of the affected land. • OR-J asked if there had been any recent complaints relating to the wind farm operations • KE raised the question of whether it would be beneficial to attempt to refresh the community membership on the CCC. DJ agreed and also planned to raise this (ACTION ITEM). • It was agreed that KE/KM and DJ should discuss and consider advertising for interested community members. This could include 'Community Capers' on radio 2KRR, Council's local newsletter and also local word of mouth avenues. • DJ noted that 'host' landowners and those receiving financial benefit from the wind farm are unable to be CCC members. • DJ to advise Andrew Hundy that the committee has assumed he has resigned from the CCC as he has not attended nor apologised re the last 4 meetings.(ACTION ITEM). • It was agreed that the next meeting of the CCC should be scheduled for <u>Tuesday 2 September</u>, at 10 am at Pyramul Hall. If this date is unsuitable, members are requested to advise the Chair as soon as possible so another date can be chosen.
<p>9.0 Next Meeting</p>	<p>The date for the next meeting was selected as <u>Tuesday 2 September 2025, at 10 am</u>, unless there is a good reason to change that.</p>

Meeting closed at 11.25am

DJ thanked all present for their attendance.

Action Items:

Item	Issue	Action By:
1.	KE, KM and DJ to prepare advertisement to circulate to invite local community members who may be interested in joining the CCC, and to explore other ways to obtain new members.	KM, KE, DJ
2	DJ to contact Andrew Hundy (Community rep, Sofala area) to inform him that we have assumed he has resigned from the committee	DJ

David Johnson, Independent Chair