



MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Thursday 16 June 2021
Inverell Shire Council (Meeting Room), 144 Otho St,
Inverell

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
David Williamson (DW)	Sapphire Wind Farm Representative
Anthony Alliston (AA)	Inverell Shire Council
Cr Carol Sparks (CS)	Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council & delegate
Ben Swan (BS)	Host Landholder

Apologies:

Neil Eigeland – Community Representative
Annabel Sides – Community Representative
Patric Millar – CWP Asset Management
Mike Norton – Community Representative
Cr Stewart Berryman – Inverell Shire Council
Matthew Velcich – Business in Glen
Chris Voll – Community Representative (Church Communities
Australia and Inverell Chamber of Commerce & Industry)
Peter Sniekers – Public Works Advisory and Regional
Development - Department of Regional NSW (Guest)

ITEM		ACTION/COMMENTS												
1.0 Welcome and Introductions CCC meeting opened at 9.08am by LA who welcomed all attendees.														
2.0 Apologies As listed above.														
3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 24 th September 2020 were finalised and distributed to CCC members.		Emailed 13/10/20.												
4.0 Declaration of Interests LA advised that there have been no changes to her previous declarations. She is an approved Independent Chairperson with DPI&E and engaged by CWP to chair the meeting.		No changes to members' declarations of interests.												
5.0 Business Arising Action Items from previous meeting:		1. Included in this presentation. 2. CS advised that a zoom meeting of NEJO was held. Another meeting is scheduled following the LG elections. Action: CS to raise at the next meeting if re-elected as a Councillor. LA to resend previous NEJO correspondence to CS.												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).</td> <td>DW</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Write to NEJO recommending that its member Councils consider entering into green energy purchase agreements. (Complete 3/10/20.)</td> <td>LA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Provide further information on the Renewable Energy Zones. (Complete – emailed with draft minutes on 1/10/20.)</td> <td>PS</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			ISSUE	WHOM	1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).	DW	2	Write to NEJO recommending that its member Councils consider entering into green energy purchase agreements. (Complete 3/10/20.)	LA	3	Provide further information on the Renewable Energy Zones. (Complete – emailed with draft minutes on 1/10/20.)	PS
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4	Provide monetary details on funding amounts issued via the Community Benefit Fund (this information was included as a post script in the finalised minutes of 24/9/20).	DW/LA	<p>3. Complete.</p> <p>4. The 2020 Round 1 funding has been awarded with a total sum of \$75,000 being distributed. Round 2 applications will be reviewed in October 2020 for the remaining \$107,500.</p>
<p>6.0 Correspondence as per email 5/6/21, with three additional items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1/10/20 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 24/9/20, with REZ information. • 13/10/20 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. • 19/5/21 – Email to DPIE with chair’s CCC annual report for 2020-21. • 5/6/21 – Email to CCC members with Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this CCC. • 9/6/21 – Email from NE with a link to a new type of battery, this was forwarded to DW & PM. • 11/6/21 - Email to members regarding the change of venue for this meeting. • 15/6/21 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting.. 			<p>Accepted.</p>
<p>7.0 Project Update</p> <p>Ongoing annual maintenance of the wind turbines, site roads and weed management continue.</p> <p>Continued Improvement Modifications (CIM) are undertaken. Lightning protection system being upgraded on all blades. Additional personnel are on site for the next six months, so there will be an increase on traffic.</p> <p>Two blade replacement have recently been completed to allow for down tower repairs. DW commented that originally it was thought that the blades would be written off, however, they were able to be repaired.</p> <p>Annual Department of Planning, Infrastructure & Environment (DPIE) and Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) inspections have been carried out with no areas of concern being reported.</p> <p>Year 2 of the Bird and Bat Management survey/report has been submitted to DPIE for review and advice on the monitoring program moving forward.</p> <p>BS commented that feral cats cause many more deaths to birds, than turbine blades. CS agreed, stating that Council recently received a presentation about the changes to RSPCA policies in managing feral cats.</p> <p>Power generation is on track to budget.</p> <p>CS asked if DW was aware of any other wind farm projects in the area. DW responded that representatives from the proposed Rangoon Wind Farm project will be attending the Sapphire site that afternoon to inspect its operations. CS advised that she has looked at the sites for Rangoon.</p>			<p>Questions were asked and answered throughout the presentation.</p>

<p>CS commented that the Climate Council of Australia was looking to get more out of wind farms for the community.</p>	
<p>8.0 Solar & Battery Projects Update</p> <p>The Sapphire Solar and Storage Project is still in development with construction of the solar and storage parts of the project to be staged. The storage part of the project (ie the battery) will commence in around September of 2021 with timing on the solar part of the project yet to be determined.</p> <p>Sundown Solar Projected, developed by CWP Renewables through to approval stage, has been purchased by Canadian Solar.</p>	
<p>9.0 Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>Three and a half years into operations, the Sapphire Wind Farm has provided a total of \$547,500 to the Community Benefit Fund. 56 successful grant applications have been awarded, with an average of \$7,500 for each project, totalling \$417,000 to date. The remaining funds, approximately \$130,000 will be available for 2021 Round 2, which will open for applications on Monday 16 August 2021.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Glen Innes Severn Shire Council receive \$5k for the turbine located within its shire, which is put into the GIS Community Fund for allocation to appropriate groups/projects.</p> <p>BS asked whether White Rock Wind Farm had a Community Benefit Fund. CS confirmed that it did and operated under a S355 Committee of Council.</p> <p>Discussions regarding the Daylesford community in Victoria, who own its own turbine that provides energy to two villages as part of the Hepburn Wind Farm development.</p>	
<p>9.0 General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BS spoke about the NSW Farmers Association, in support of renewable energy. • CS advised that the proposed Rangoon Wind Farm development has received a bit of push back from the community, with concerns on the size of the turbines. • CS thanked SWF for the CEF contributions which have provided assistance to community. 	
<p>10.0 Meeting Schedule for 2022</p> <p>LA sought the committee's opinion on moving the CCC to an annual meeting as the wind farm is in its operational. Of course, should there be any need to convene the CCC at any time, the chair will call an extraordinary meeting at the request of any community members, stakeholder group or the proponent.</p> <p>The next meeting of the CCC was scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wednesday 15th June 2022, commencing at 9am, Inverell Shire Council meeting room, Inverell. 	<p>Agreed.</p>

Meeting closed at 9.49am with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing)	PM
2	Raise at next NEJO meeting whether it will consider entering into green energy purchase agreement.	CS